

ERICSSON CUP ★★★ FIXTURES & GROUND GUIDE

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN

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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH



JOHNNIE WALKER CUP FINAL REPORT

KONICHIWA & SAYONARA THOMSON-SAN

Editorial

The latest season of the National Soccer league kicks off this week. We all await its arrival with eager anticipation.

Many questions are waiting to be answered. By the end of 26 rounds in April next year we should have those answers.

Two new clubs enter the arena. One as an addition to an existing and great club in another code and the other with no firm base but much ambition.

The advent of Collingwood will be closely monitored. Not only by its die hard Aussie Rules supporters to ensure that 'their' soccer arm is performing to their high expectations but also by many other potential multi sport clubs.

Under Zoran Matic they will be well led of the field. It remains to be seen how the players recruited by Collingwood perform in the black and white home gear. They will certainly provide a colourful spectacle in their away strip, by all accounts.

Perth Glory have ex-Socceroo Gary Marocchi at the helm. This is his first taste of coaching at elite level. They may find the twice a month travelling to Adelaide and other points east tiresome and boring. It will certainly be expensive.

It is a brave decision to admit a team from the remotest city of over a million people in the world. It is a daring organisation who takes on the task of entering the national league.

They follow in the footsteps of teams in Basketball, Aussie Rules and Rugby League competitions country wide.

It is certainly going to prove challenging for teams travelling to Perth as the games will be played on Sunday evenings. The visitor must either stay overnight or take the infamous 'red eye special' back home, leaving at midnight.

It is to be hoped that those players who have jobs outside of Soccer have understanding bosses.

The expansion of the national league is long overdue. The entry of full time professionalism into the ranks of all Ericsson Cup teams is essential.

The appointment of a committee by Soccer Australia to examine the implementation of full time professionalism is to be applauded. This committee's terms of reference include how to stem the tide of players leaving these shores for foreign lands.

They have a challenging task when a 17 year old, untried Aussie can be signed by England's Liverpool and paid hundreds of dollars a week. Most youths are happy to be earning a little bit of pocket money at a supermarket or a fast food franchise with no more ambition than to buy a car.

Whatever comes out of the SA committee's deliberations, if the revenue can be generated to enable players to be paid the \$100,000 a season necessary, then clubs will need to employ financial advisers. Players earning large incomes will need careful advice, guidance and counselling to ensure they don't fritter away their new found wealth on cars, drink and gambling. Unfortunately this is often the case overseas. Some players are lucky enough to find a good partner who looks after them and their money to ensure that it accumulates to help sustain them through the years following their soccer career. Not everyone is so lucky!

— Bob Brooks

Japanese club Sanfrecce Hiroshima has revealed that Australian coach Eddie Thomson had applied to take control of the J-League side.

Soccer Australia issued a four paragraph release saying it was Thomson who had been approached about the job.

What does Thomson say?

"I am not going anywhere - this is all speculation!"

"All that has happened is that I was approached in South Africa by an agent acting for the club (Sanfrecce). Certain things were put to me and that's that. This has all got out of hand."

A spokesman for the J-League club admitted the Australian coach had initiated talks and was a front-runner for the position, but scoffed at reports that Hiroshima was near to signing a \$500,000 per season deal with Thomson.

"We are discussing the possibility of him coaching in the future and if the time is proper he may come to Japan," a spokesman from Hiroshima was reported to have said. "But we have not signed any contract yet and we are not only talking to people from Australia we are also in touch with people from Europe as well."

He said that Thomson was seen as a highly successful coach and was well regarded in Japan.

The coaching vacancy at lowly-placed Sanfrecce arose after Dutchman Wim Jansen resigned last month.

Eddie Thomson has acknowledged that he is open to offers despite being under contract to the Socceroos until the completion of their 1998 World Cup campaign. His existing Soccer Australia package is worth about \$180,000.

However, there have been growing rumblings of discontent over the past 18

months about his coaching methods, which many detractors claim is too defence-orientated.

The reaction of Australia's soccer authorities hardly helps the situation when a spokesman specified that although Thomson had not yet signed a deal, if he did go, Soccer Australia would move quickly to replace him.

This is not surprising as rumours abound of a small but influential group within the game who have been trying for some time to remove the Australian National Team coach.

In fact, further reports from the soccer grapevine speculate that this 'group' seized on the Hiroshima story and have used it as a lever to roll him out of the post.

Thomson claimed, "It is sad when people from Soccer Australia are being quoted in the papers as saying some commissioners would be happy to see me go and that those quotes are not attributed to any name."

It is no secret that Eddie Thomson and David Hill 'don't see eye to eye' and according to some Socceroo players it all came out into the

open in South Africa during the Simba Cup Tournament recently.

The pair had a toe to toe confrontation fuelled by Hills' accusation that Thomson ran an 'undisciplined' team. The Aussie trainer countered vehemently that nobody could be blamed for Popovich's sending off as even the Ghanaian referee himself had admitted to having made a mistake.

The whole affair seems to be turning into a typical and unfortunately not-unfamiliar 'storm' which hits the game in Australia regularly.

In fact the dust from the 'Logo-Affair' involving Hill and several Ericsson League clubs has hardly settled and already there is a danger that the scandal sheets and rumour mongers are about to be treated to yet another pantomime of mud-slinging and muck-raking which the game can ill afford.

Thomson has been unavailable for comment since the story broke and calls to his home have been answered by the recorded message, "Konichiwa, Eddie's not here at the moment."

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NEW BOYS SHOCK ELITE



by DWYGH TUFFNELL

COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS 1 MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0

The Ericsson Cup's newest team, Collingwood Warriors, defeated one of the leagues founding members to clinch the Johnnie Walker Cup at Lakeside Stadium on Sunday.

The team, put together in the last few weeks, has impressed many observers including defeated coach Manfred Schaefer.

"I think they will do very well in the competition," Schaefer said afterwards.

"They have seven or eight established players, but to have them playing as a unit is very surprising."

A solitary goal, two minutes into the second half, was enough to win it.

Skipper Kimon Taliadoros played a through ball for ex-South Melbourne player Con Boutsianis to lift it over Bob Catlin.

The Warriors had probably deserved their lead. Several fine pieces of play were produced by Andy Vlahos, John Waddell, on occasions Goran Lozanovski and most notably man of the match, Ernie Tapai.

Waddell has spurned a great chance earlier when a typically accurate Lozanovski cross found him on the back post but he snatched at his shot and sent it over the bar.

Marconi looked out of sorts in the first half, perhaps surprised a little by Collingwood, but combined well enough after conceding the goal to perhaps have pulled one back.

Brendan Renaud got more and more into the game the longer it went, causing some problems for Collingwood's relatively inexperienced defence.

They were only minor problems however, as Dean Fak and South Australian Rick Cerrachio looked very comfortable at this level.

Luke Casserly pushed further up as time ran out to try to help the visitors find an equaliser. Collingwood did well to thwart them, particularly in one 15 minute spell.

Matthew Bingley was thrown up front, after Francis Awaritefe was substituted, and he nearly provided the leveller on two occasions.

He was first denied by a combination goal line clearance of Dean Anastasiadis and Tapai.

Tapai even came in for special praise from Schaefer who said "he played like three or four men today."

Substitute Vlado Zoric had a shot cleared away by a Warriors defender after a mazy run through the penalty area.

Shortly after, Bingley was again frustrated by Anastasiadis from Renaud's swerving cross.

Lozanovski could have wrapped it all up in the 89th minute. Taliadoros' long ball bounced over the head of Renaud straight into the path of Lozanovski, but with Catlin off his line he lobbed the ball too high onto the top of the net.

The attendance was officially announced as 2,327 which seemed only about half the number actually at the ground.

Schaefer admits that with the side that Marconi fielded they should have won the cup.

"Apart from a few finishing touches, the 13 or 14 involved today are going to be there when the league starts."

Victorious Warriors coach Zoran Matic said that his players aren't fit but was pleased that the team created the chances.

"We wanted them to come at us, but we couldn't expose them on the break but we are creating chances."

It would be easy to get carried away with the Collingwood Warriors and the way they have won a trophy at the first attempt.

But the scalps of Adelaide City, South Melbourne and now Marconi suggests that they are not in the competition to make up the numbers.

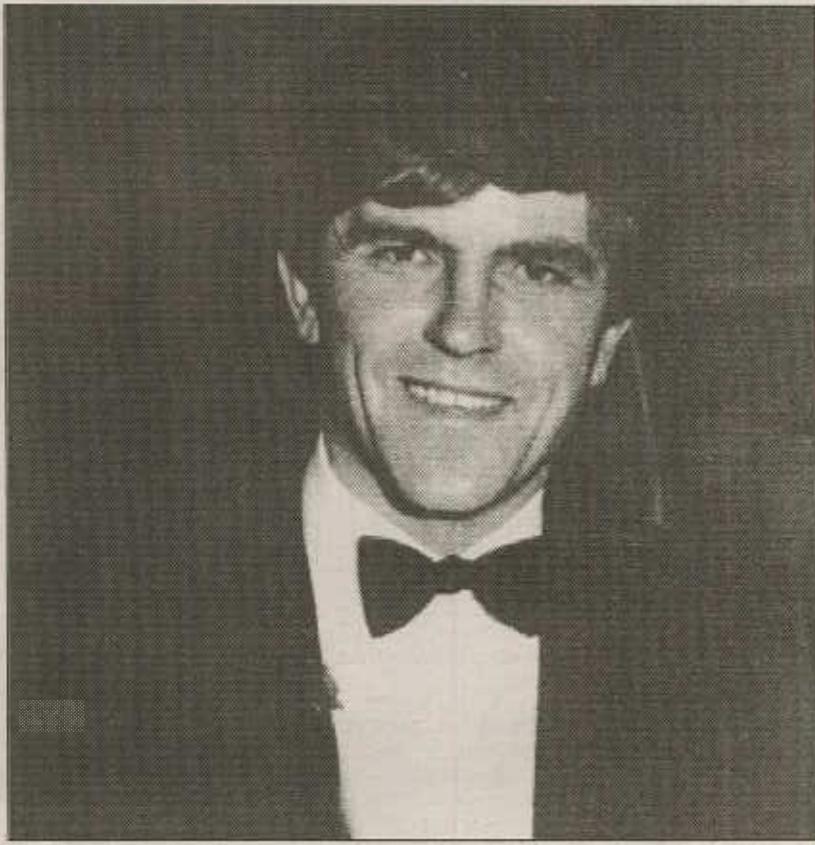
Collingwood: Anastasiadis, Scott, Waddell, Talladira, Vlahos, Boutsianis (Babic 74), Taliadoros, Tapai, Lozanovski, Fak, Cerrachio.

Marconi: Catlin, Stanton, Bingley, Casserly, Harper, Foster, Maloney (Ravanello 76), Longo, Awaritefe (Zoric 64), Souris, Renaud.

Scorer: Boutsianis (47)
Yellow Cards:

Collingwood — Taliadoros (50). **Marconi** — Stanton (87)

Crowd: 2,327
Referee: E Brazzale



Zoran Matic: Led his team to a surprise triumph in Melbourne in what could be classed a shock result.

Player Ratings . . .

COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS

Dean Anastasiadis: Performed heroics in the second half denying Matthew Bingley and Vlado Zoric. Had a touch of the fumbles early on. (7)

Alan Scott: Solid performance by the right back, did not put a foot wrong all day. Looked calm when on the ball. (7)

John Waddell: Waddell playing his first game for Collingwood gave one hundred percent. Came forward to help his strikers, should have got his name on the scoresheet when he shot over the crossbar. (7)

Carlo Talladira: Distribution was excellent, involved in many of Collingwood's attacking raids. Ran all day back and forth, one of the better players for the Warriors. (8)

Andy Vlahos: Pacey player, looked sharp at times was tightly marked by the Marconi defence. Could have contributed more. (7)

Con Boutsianis: Looked dangerous when on the ball, gave Marconi a hard time down the left flank with his pace and skill. Sent crosses into the box that worried the Fairfielders. Replaced late on by Vlad Babic. (7)

Kimon Taliadoros: Captain who led by example, workrate was outstanding. When attacking Taliadoros looked like never being caught. Put the ball through to Boutsianis for the only goal of the game. (8)

Ernie Tapai: Won the man of the match honours with a sizzling display of skill, strength and speed. Tapai caused problems for Marconi as he was difficult to mark. Played in the middle of the park. (9)

Goran Lozanovski: Busy in the first half, made the right flank his own. Whipped in crosses which troubled Marconi goalkeeper Bobby Catlin. Vision was outstanding possibly ran out of puff in the second stanza. (8)

Dean Fak: Had the marking duties on dangerous striker Andy Harper also found time to do the job on Francis Awaritefe won everything in the air, and looked confident. (7)

Rick Cerrachio: Played in the sweeper's position. Excellent contribution from this unknown player. Cleared everything Marconi threw at him. After this solid performance many people will be talking about this man. (8)

Vlad Babic: Replaced goalscorer Con Boutsianis late in the second half. Could not find his feet as he looked unsettled. (4)



MARCONI FAIRFIELD

Bobby Catlin: Produced an airborne save to clear a Lozanovski cross. Was kept on his toes for most of the first half dealing with crosses from Boutsianis and Lozanovski. (7)

Robert Stanton: Played the sweeper's role. Read the game well just like Cerrachio, Stanton cleared everything that came his way, communicated well with fellow defenders. (7)

Matthew Bingley: Usual consistent performance from the skipper. Strong tackling but fair. Played both defensively and in an attacking midfield role. Pushed up front when Awaritefe was substituted. Kept Anastasiadis busy with lethal strikes on goal. (8)

Luke Casserly: Had the marking duties on Vlahos, Casserly kept the striker quiet with tight marking. Made some overlapping runs down the right flank which he combined with excellent ball skills. (7)

Andy Harper: Came close to scoring with a strike in the first half. Tried all day combined well with Bingley late in the game when Marconi were seeking the equaliser. (7)

Craig Foster: Was kept quite for most of the afternoon. With his skill and ability Foster could have done much more. (6)

Brad Maloney: Was replaced in the second half by Andrew Ravanello. Never looked settled. Could have made more of a contribution. (6)

Dominic Longo: Played in the stopper's position and did his job well. Was calm throughout, even went forward at times in an attempt to get the equaliser. (7)

Francis Awaritefe: Was kept busy in the first half when he had to filter back into defence to help out. Made one sensational clearance from a Lozanovski cross. Did not get supplied with enough good ball to produce the goods in attack. (7)

Paul Souris: Marconi's rugged defender produced some strong tackling which put pressure on some Collingwood players. Handled the play with ease. (7)

Brendan Renaud: Marconi's joint best player along with Bingley. Had an entertaining tussle with Lozanovski. Performed strongly made overlapping runs down the left flank which was the highlight of the day. (8)

Vlado Zoric: Replaced Awaritefe in the second half. Showed glimpses of his wonderful skills and ability to take players on. Made a meal of the Warriors defence when took on three players and produced a shot which fully tested Anastasiades. Should have been introduced earlier. (6)

Andrew Ravanello: Replaced Maloney late in the game and did not have enough time to have an impact. (4)



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ERICSSON CUP

By GREG BLAKE



YOUR CLUB BY CLUB GUIDE PART ONE OF A TWO PART CLUBS COMPETING FOR THE

ADELAIDE CITY ZEBRAS



COACH: John Nyskotous
HOME: Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide, SA
LAST YEAR: 3rd
YEARS IN NSL: 21 - 1977 to 1996/97
HONOURS: Champions - 1986, 1991/92 and 1993/94
Champions (South Div) - 1986
Runners up - 1992/93 and 1994/95
Cup Winners - 1979, 1989 and 1991/92
Cup Runner up - 1978
Finalists - 1986, 1989/90, 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93, 1993/94, 1994/95 and 1995/96
GAMES RECORD: Serg Melts (445)
GOALS RECORD: Damian Mori (72)
95/96 TOP GUN: Damian Mori (31)
95/96 TOP VOTES: Damian Mori
REC GLS IN SEAS: Damian Mori (31)
RECORD WIN: 10-3 v Mooroolbark (League) in 1977
RECORD DEFEAT: 0-6 v St George (League) in 1988



Damian Mori: Way out in front in scoring department, in more ways than one.

TABLE	Plyd	Won	Drn	Lost	For	Agst	Pts
HOME RECORD:	265	131	77	57	444	231	339
AWAY RECORD:	234	86	65	113	329	382	237
LEAGUE TOTAL:	529	217	142	170	773	613	576
FINALS/TOP 4:	30	20	1	9	44	25	N/A
CUP GAMES:	55	33	9	13	97	50	N/A
TOT. NSL GAMES:	614	270	152	192	914	688	N/A

Finals or cup matches decided on penalties are shown as drawn games. Home and away points calculated on two points per win basis.

CANBERRA COSMOS



COACH: Mike Lyons
HOME: Bruce Stadium, Canberra, ACT
LAST YEAR: 9th
YEARS IN NSL: 2 - 1995/96 to 1996/1997
HONOURS: Nil
GAMES RECORD: Paul Dee (30)
GOALS RECORD: Paul Wade (11)
95/96 TOP GUN: Paul Wade (11)
95/96 TOP VOTES: Michael Musitano
REC GLS IN SEAS: Paul Wade (11) in 1995/96
RECORD WIN: 5-0 v Gippsland Falcons (League) in 1995/96
RECORD DEFEAT: 0-6 v Adelaide City (League) in 1995/96



Paul Wade: Although considered a veteran, nevertheless still an outstanding club man.

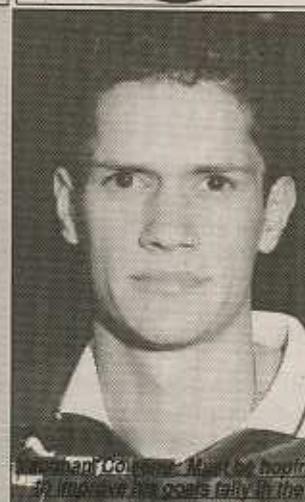
TABLE	Plyd	Won	Drn	Lost	For	Agst	Pts
HOME RECORD	17	6	7	4	28	20	19
AWAY RECORD	16	2	4	10	20	41	8
LEAGUE TOTAL	33	8	11	14	48	61	27
FINALS/TOP 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
CUP GAME	3	1	1	1	3	4	N/A
TOT. NSL GAMES	36	9	12	15	51	65	N/A

Finals or cup matches decided on penalties are shown as drawn games. Home and away points calculated on two points per win basis.

SOUTH MELBOURNE



COACH: Angie Postecoglou
HOME: Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne, Vic
LAST YEAR: 8th
YEARS IN NSL: 21 - 1977 to 1996/97
HONOURS: Champions - 1984 and 1990/91
Champions (South Div) - 1984
Runners up - 1981
Minor premiers - 1992/93
Minor premiers (Sth Div) - 1984 and 1985
Cup winners - 1989/90 and 1995/96
Cup runners up - 1987
Finalists - 1978, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989/90, 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93, 1993/94 and 1994/95
GAMES RECORD: Steve Blair (338)
GOALS RECORD: Charlie Egan (73)
95/96 TOP GUN: Vaughan Coveny (10)
95/96 TOP VOTES: Paul Trimboli
REC GLS IN SEAS: Doug Brown (22) in 1984
RECORD WIN: 7-0 v Newcastle Rosebud (League) in 1984
RECORD DEFEAT: 0-7 v Marconi (Final) in 1992/93



Vaughan Coveny: Having scored 10 impressive set goals tally in the opening season.

TABLE	Plyd	Won	Drn	Lost	For	Agst	Pts
HOME RECORD	267	146	68	53	462	262	360
AWAY RECORD	262	102	60	100	364	348	264
LEAGUE TOTAL	529	248	128	153	826	610	624
FINALS/TOP 4	30	11	5	14	48	55	N/A
CUP GAMES	51	29	5	17	121	70	N/A
TOT. NSL GAMES	610	288	138	184	995	735	

Finals or cup matches decided on penalties are shown as drawn games. Home and away points calculated on two points per win basis. * All stats up to and including the 1995/96 season grand final. All statistical information is copyrighted and cannot be reproduced in whole or part in any form without the written consent of this newspaper.

GIPPSLAND FALCONS

FORMERLY MORWELL FALCONS

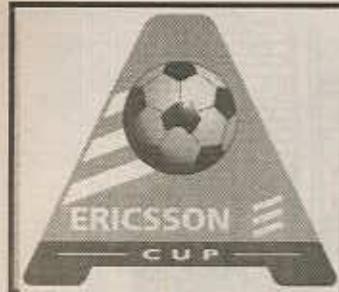
COACH: Frank Arok
HOME: Falcons Park, Morwell, Vic
LAST YEAR: 10th
YEARS IN NSL: 5 - 1992/93 to 1996/97
HONOURS: Finalists - 1994/95
GAMES RECORD: John Waddell (84)
GOALS RECORD: John Markovski (20)
95/96 TOP GUN: Warren Spink (8)
95/96 TOP VOTES: Ernie Tapai
REC GLS IN SEAS: John Markovski (11) in 1993/94
RECORD WIN: 5-1 v Brisbane (League) in 1994/95
RECORD DEFEAT: 0-5 v Canberra Cosmos (League) in 1995/96 and v Adelaide City (League) in 1995/96



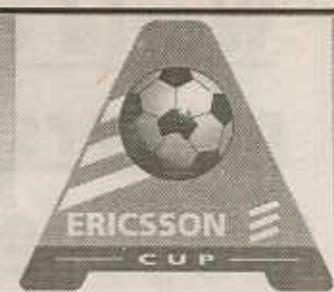
Eddie Krncevic: His overseas experience could prove invaluable to the Falcons.

TABLE	Plyd	Won	Drn	Lost	For	Agst	Pts
HOME RECORD	54	19	19	16	71	68	57
AWAY RECORD	55	16	14	25	65	107	46
LEAGUE TOTAL	109	35	33	41	136	175	103
FINALS/TOP 4	2	0	0	2	1	6	N/A
CUP GAMES	10	2	0	8	10	27	
TOT. NSL GAMES	121	37	33	51	147	208	N/A

Finals or cup matches decided on penalties are shown as drawn games. Home and away points per win basis.



ERICSSON CUP



By GREG BLAKE

TO THE TEAMS FOR 1996/97 SERIES COVERING THE 14 ERICSSON CUP THIS SUMMER

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



COACH:
HOME:
LAST YEAR:
YEARS IN NSL:
HONOURS:

Ian Dobson
Knights Park, Melbourne, VIC
1st
13 - 1984 to 1996/97
Champions - 1994/95 and 1995/96
Runners up - 1990/91, 1991/92 and 1993/94
Minor premiers - 1990/91, 1991/92,
1993/94 and 1994/95
Cup winners - 1994/95
Finalists - 1984, 1985, 1989, 1989/90,
1990/91, 1991/92, 1993/94, 1994/95 and
1995/96

GAMES RECORD:
GOALS RECORD:
95/96 TOP GUN:
95/96 TOP VOTES:
REC GLS IN SEAS:
RECORD WIN:
RECORD DEFEAT:

Josip Biskic (250)
Ivan Kelic (44)
Andrew Marth (10)
Andrew Marth
Mark Viduka (18) in 1994/95
8-1 v Wollongong Mac (League) in 1990/91
0-6 v Adelaide City (League) in 1990/91

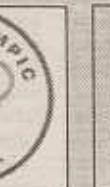


Andrew Marth: Led the Knights to their second consecutive Grand Final victory last term.

TABLE	Plyd	Won	Dra	Lost	For	Agst	Pts
HOME RECORD	168	93	31	44	282	161	217
AWAY RECORD	167	68	46	53	256	229	182
LEAGUE TOTAL	335	161	77	97	538	390	399
FINALS/TOP 4	23	8	6	9	30	30	N/A
CUP GAMES	39	20	3	16	65	50	N/A
TOT. NSL GAMES	397	189	86	122	633	470	N/A

Finals or cup matches decided on penalties are shown as drawn games. Home and away points calculated on two points per win basis.

UTS OLYMPIC



COACH:
HOME:
LAST YEAR:
YEARS IN NSL:
HONOURS:

David Ratcliffe
Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney, NSW
5th
20 - 1977 to 1979 and 1981 to 1996/97
Champions - 1989/90
Champions (North Div) - 1984 and 1986
Runners up - 1984, 1986 and 1989
Cup winners - 1983 and 1985
Cup runners up - 1989 and 1989/90
Finalists - 1984, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989,
1989/90, 1991/92, 1993/94 and 1995/96

GAMES RECORD:
GOALS RECORD:
95/96 TOP GUN:
95/96 TOP VOTES:
REC GLS IN SEAS:
RECORD WIN:
RECORD DEFEAT:

Gary Meier (296)
Marshall Soper (45)
Kris Trajanovski (19)
Kris Trajanovski
Kris Trajanovski (19) in 1995/96
6-0 v Apia Leichhardt (Cup) in 1986
1-7 v Marconi (League) in 1993/94



Kris Trajanovski: Leading goalscorer last season for UTS Olympic.

TABLE	Plyd	Won	Dra	Lost	For	Agst	Pts
HOME RECORD	253	118	68	67	373	260	308
AWAY RECORD	250	82	72	96	330	349	236
LEAGUE TOTAL	503	200	140	163	703	609	544
FINALS/TOP 4	29	15	2	12	40	40	N/A
CUP GAMES	49	27	4	18	86	72	N/A
TOT. NSL GAMES	581	242	146	193	829	721	N/A

Finals or cup matches decided on penalties are shown as drawn games. Home and away points calculated on two points per win basis.

COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS



Zoran Matic: Coach of Collingwood Warriors.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
COACH:
HOME:
LAST YEAR:
YEARS IN NSL:
HONOURS:
GAMES RECORD:
GOALS RECORD:
95/96 TOP GUN:
95/96 TOP VOTES:
REC GLS IN SEAS:
RECORD WIN:
RECORD DEFEAT:

Zoran Matic
Victoria Park, Melbourne, Vic
Not applicable
1 - 1996/97
Nil
Not applicable
Not applicable

TABLE	Plyd	Won	Dra	Lost	For	Agst	Pts
HOME RECORD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AWAY RECORD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FINALS/TOP 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
CUP GAMES	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
TOT. NSL GAMES	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A

Finals or cup matches decided on penalties are shown as drawn games. Home and away points calculated on two points per win basis.



Goran Lozanovsky: Has joined Collingwood from Adelaide City and should prove a great capture.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
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World class players and coach needed

Dear Sir,
Criticism of Eddie Thomson's performance as national coach remains constant but to no avail.

I would like to recount from memory a very frank and revealing article written many years ago just prior to the disastrous selection of Rudi Guttendorf as national coach on the selection process or criteria of that era.

It was based on the widely held view that Australia was nothing more than a minor backwater "third world" soccer country with no real prospects on the big stage of international football a token novelty participant, nothing more.

Therefore the right credentials for a suitable Australian national coach were someone who had more off field skills than on field skills normal procedure for all third world soccer countries.

It would appear this attitude has persisted in this country. Despite the fact that at international level Australian soccer is no longer

third world standard.

Eddie Thompson is a more than competent coach for a "third world" soccer country like NZ or Canada for example but the undeniable fact is that when you have a significant number of quality players including some world class ones, as Australia does now, you need a type of coach who can get the best out of them.

The powers that be behind the scenes are short changing themselves by continually backing E.T. The Socceroos are and always have been OZ soccer's most marketable product but under Eddie Thomson's stewardship they have not nor will they in the future realise their true potential.

Therefore they will not generate maximum returns money, profits, dividends spinoffs etc the things that it is all about in the real world of big business.

R. Melor,
BONDI, NSW.

BELCONNEN DO DOUBLE

Belconnen United Soccer Club (BUSC) are the champions of the ACT.

BUSC took the ACT double. Firstly they won the premiership and the Premier League Final Four Championship against the highly fancied former NSW Super League club Canberra Deakin. BUSC President Basil Pietrukowski paid tribute to players, coaches, managers, the club committee, sponsors and supporters for a very successful season. Belconnen United teams also won the ACT State League 2nd, 3rd and 4th Divisions and were runners up in the Premier League Reserve Grade and State First Division Youth Grade. Although they were knocked out of the Final Four Championship, the Premier League youth team won their premiership.

Due to the consistency of the first team BUSC wrapped up the ACT Premier League two rounds before the end of the season. In the Final Four Championship play-offs BUSC were unlucky to be beaten 2-0 in the first round by Canberra Deakin, which was the first time in the season that Deakin had beaten them and only the second time BUSC had been beaten by any team in the Premiership League. In the second round BUSC disposed of Juventus to progress to the Grand Final.

Player/coach Lino Fiorese, in his second season with BUSC, has welded a very young talented team into a tough committed unit that boasts one of the tightest defences in the League. Steven Bakas had a splendid season in goal and the four man back line was well led by Canberra Cosmos player Jason Dunn and included Adrian Dowling, Valerio

Galeotti, Shane Billington (Res), Dave Flannagan (Res) and Scott Manson, who also had a stint in mid field.

Throughout the season the mid field included coach Lino Fiorese, Niall Stoddard, Paul Chalmers, Julian Brown (Res) and Luke Larfield. The forwards were Marko Perinovic also with Cosmos, and Tony Pangallo. Peter Farrelly, Mark Pietrukowski, Dean Ugrinic and Frank Agnello were some of the Reserve team players, who along with Reserve team and assistant First team coach Paul Ontong, contributed to the First team's great success.

In the Grand Final at Greenway Stadium, Tuggeranong played on Sunday September 15 the young and talented Belconnen side once again came up against the more seasoned blue chip team of Canberra Deakin. The game was a tough, fast, hard fought contest and it was not until after the break that the only goal of the game was scored. Early in the second half BUSC forward Perinovic rifled in a free kick from just outside the box. The ball took a wicked deflection off the Deakin wall, flew past the committed Deakin keeper Bob Simic and into the far corner of the net for the only goal of the game.

After the goal try as they might Deakin failed to find an equaliser and internationally recognised referee Gordon Dunster was forced to make several bookings as the pressure of the game got the better of the players. It was not long before Deakin had two players sent off. Scott Conlon and Mladen Rogic were given their marching orders as the players persistently committed fouls and unwisely disputed every

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
PO BOX 155,
MARRICKVILLE
NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 9550-9332



"They lost their first match — and it was a Cup Final."

All codes can survive

Dear Sir,

I am writing in reply to R. Melor's letter "New Swan Song" in ABSW 1/10/96.

I quote from this letter "there is only room for one dominant mainstream football in Sydney and Brisbane."

I strongly disagree with this comment by R. Melor and past years events prove this fact.

On a corresponding weekend Rugby league played at the SFS in front of 35,000 than less than 2 hours

later 40,000 crammed the SCG for the Swans semi-final.

That's 75,000 people at two sporting events in the space of seven hours. I think the same would occur if RL or AFL played earlier in the day and say the Socceroos had an international in the evening I'm sure both events would attract great attendances.

It's thoughts like Mr Melor's that hurt football codes and a much broader outlook should be adopted in

support of all codes in Sydney, the Greatest sporting city in Australia.

With a population of over 4 million people how can other codes be limited.

The people are present, the quality of the football is present and all codes if promoted correctly can survive and attract audiences both at stadiums and live.

T. Golding,
HURSTVILLE, NSW.

Melbourne Poms?

Dear Sir,

I would like to respond to Mr Ising's letter that was published in the 24/9 issue of ABSW.

Obviously Mr Ising has no idea that it is not the logo or Wogs that are stopping Australian football from improving but people like him who can't digest "Wogs" being good at anything. I don't think Mr Ising would be so concerned if Marconi or the Knights had the Union Jack in their logos and called themselves Melbourne Poms, or London City or something like that.

Australia's flag has a

foreign flag in its top corner and yet it is still called the Australian flag and those red, white and blue colours are called Aussie colours. But at the same time if those colours appear on Melb. Knights logo then those are foreign colours of Croatian background. Funny that!

If there were no "Wogs" in Australia there would be no football (or soccer as so called "Aussie" Ising would call it).

Ethnic background has nothing to do with the slow improvement of the sport. Any sport! After all AC Milan didn't become such a great football power just

because it was formed by English cricketers but because Italians of Milano supported the club without prejudice and worrying about name changing. Boston Celtics of NBA are not backed and supported by American Irish only, but by most of the people in the city regardless of their nationality.

And another thing; if the newly formed football league in the USA becomes popular with the kids then our football will become popular as well with our kids just like basketball did.

Damir Buljat,
St Albans VIC.



Basil Pietrukowski: President of Belconnen Ltd.

decision made by the referee. When Deakin did settle down to play soccer and despite

having only nine men, they managed to find enough space to attack the Belconnen goal

but the BUSC defence stood resolute and the game ended in a deserved one nil win.

CYC STANMORE HAWKS SOCCER CLUB YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

SELECTION TRIALS FOR THE UNDER 13 TO UNDER 16 YOUTH LEAGUE TEAMS FOR THE 1997 COMPETITION SEASON WILL BE HELD AT COOKE PARK CHISOLM STREET, SOUTH STRATHFIELD OFF PUNCHBOWL ROAD, COMMENCING ON TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 1996 AT 6.00 PM & CONTINUE ON TUESDAY NIGHTS 22/10, 29/10 & 5/11 TRIALS FOR U/18 & U/21 TEAMS IN DIVISION 1 FEDERATION COMPETITION WILL BE HELD AT COOKE PARK ON THURSDAY EVENINGS 6.30PM 17/10, 24/10, 31/10 & 7/11/96 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE RING: STEVE ON 9642 1781 A.H.



IN AFFILIATION WITH THE EASTERN SUBURBS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOC.

YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS
Saturdays Oct 12, 19, 26

Nov 2

U/12, U/13 9AM U/14,
U/15 10.30AM
U/16 12 Noon

Jellicoe Park, Park Road,
Pagewood

Further details available next week
For inquiries contact: John Velthuys
018 271712

STRIKERS INJURY WORRIES EASING

By BOB BROOKS

Jeromy Harris, Brisbane Strikers new midfield signing should be fit to take his place for the team's first Ericsson Cup match against Adelaide City this Sunday.

Harris missed most of last season due to a double hernia operation while at Marconi.

C.Q. SEARCH

Frank Arok spotted Harris while on a tour of Central Queensland. In Rockhampton the 18 year old impressed the then Marconi coach.

Harris was studying at University so Marconi offered him a scholarship as well as the chance to play top soccer in one of the glamour teams of the Ericsson Cup.

The talented player made the last eight first team games for Marconi in the 94/95 season before he was struck down by a stomach problem which eventually resulted in the hernia operation.

BY DEGREES

During his time in Sydney, Harris completed his degree which enables him to practice as an exercise physiologist at Queensland University of



Frank Farina: Impressed with Jeremy Harris and he is now a Striker.

Technology.

He started his soccer playing relatively late at 12 years of age in the Rockhampton area as a striker.

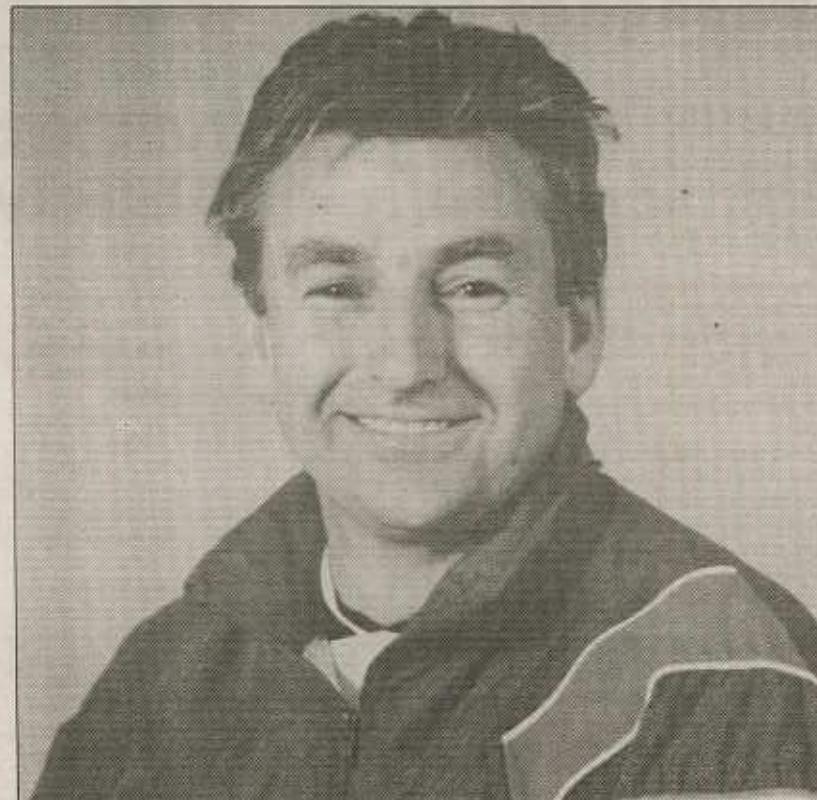
He has developed into an attacking midfielder.

During the winter months he turned out for Beenleigh in the XXXX League, where

Frank Farina saw him and persuaded him to join the Strikers.

☆ ☆ ☆

AWAY TRIP FIRST UP IN ERICSSON CUP



John Kosmina: Will be offering no favours to the Strikers when they visit Breakers Stadium.

The Strikers travel to Adelaide this weekend to take on Adelaide City. The Zebras are always a force to be reckoned with and never an easy team to face at Hindmarsh.

The 7.30pm kick off means Brisbane will have to stay overnight in South Australia's capital.

With the change at the top from last year's Ericsson Cup Coach of the Year John Perin to yet another former Socceroo and Adelaide City stalwart, Johnny Nyskohous, the pressure could be on the home side.

The following Saturday, the Strikers are at Suncorp Stadium for their first home game of the new season.

Topper Breakers from Newcastle are the visitors. The Novacastrians will show a number of changes from the previous season. Coach John Kosmina will be determined that his outfit will put up an improved showing this time around.

☆ ☆ ☆

BOSNIAN WITH BRISBANE

Another player impressing the Strikers coaches is Vedran Becirbegovic. He is a Bosnian refugee to Australia and another midfielder.

Since arriving in Brisbane he has been playing Division 2 with Rocklea.

Sydney United took Becirbegovic on their tour to Croatia with a view to signing him. However, some of his family have now settled in Brisbane and that is where he appears to prefer to be.

In 1989 and 1990 the former Yugoslavia selected the midfielder for their youth team. Subsequently he played in Austria with Linz and FC Keli.



ZORICICH STILL WANTED

Farina has not given up on persuading Chris Zoricich to rejoin the Strikers.

The classy New Zealand defender has been in England trying for a contract and is currently on a tour of Asia with the All Whites.

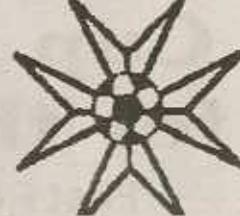
There is no doubt that Zoricich would again be a valuable part of Brisbane's bid for a top challenge in the Ericsson Cup.

He scored three goals last season in 27 games and always is difficult to beat.



Chris Zoricich: Wanted back at Suncorp Stadium to bolster the Strikers defence.

WEST WANDERERS



FIRST DIVISION STATE LEAGUE
OPEN TRIALS FOR
1997 SEASON

U/18 TUE OCT 22, 29 & NOV 5, 12
1ST & U/21 WED OCT 23, 30 & NOV 6, 13

ALL TIMES 7.00PM

AT HAROLD MEAD PARK,
GIRRRAWEEN ROAD, GIRRRAWEEN.

Further Information: Charles Abdilla
018 674922 or 02 9757 2906 or 02 9637 1607 (A.H.)

Also U/21 COACH WANTED

Applications in writing to: The Secretary,
P.O. Box 200 Pendle Hill, NSW 2145.

SLOBODE STOJCEVSKI COACH EXTRAORDINAIRE

BY ROY HAY

One coaching job would be enough for most people, but Geelong Soccer Club player-coach Slobode (Bobby) Stojcevski has three. He coaches the Green Gully Reserves in the Premier League as assistant to Chris Taylor, and also looks after the Green Gully youth team in the National Youth League, which

he kicks off in a week's time. Former Geelong coach Michael Micevski, who has played a big part in Stojcevski's career over the years, recruited him as a player in 1995, after finding that Green Gully played most of its matches on a Sunday. Stojcevski then retired from the club at the end of the 1995 season along with Micevski after Geelong narrowly missed promotion, but was persuaded to return as a player after the start of the 1996 season.

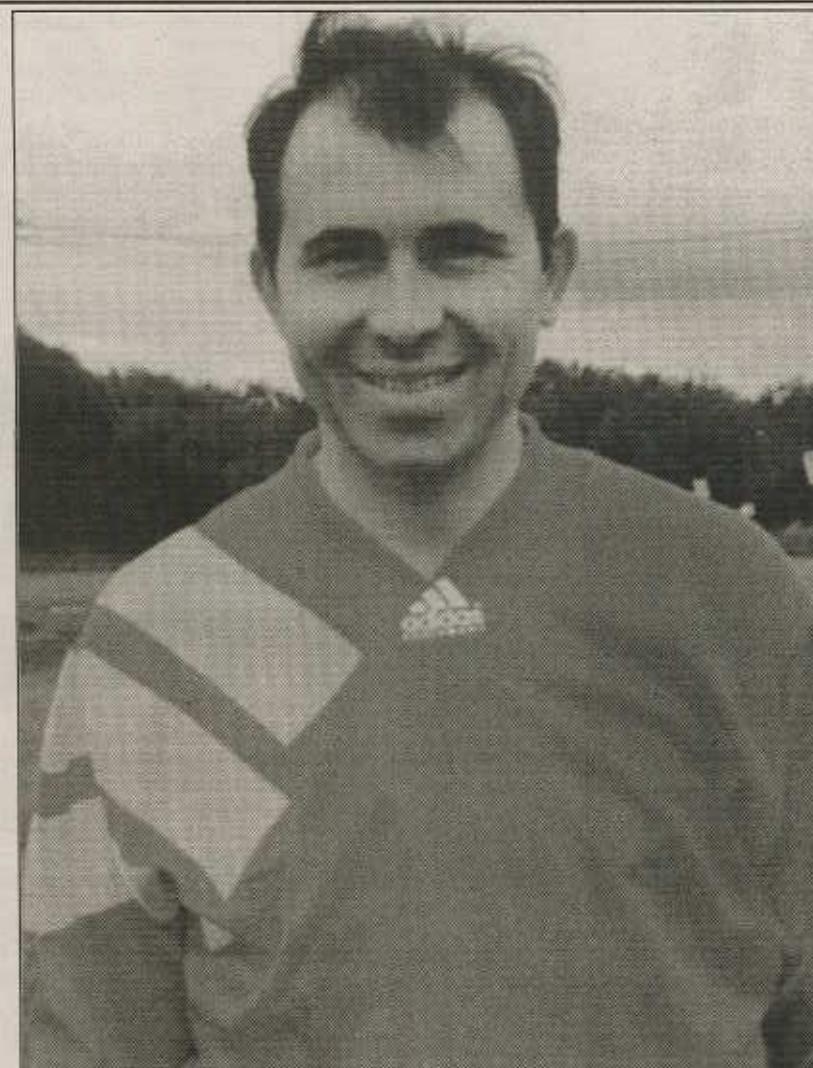
When David Huddart resigned as coach early in the campaign, the Geelong committee approached Stojcevski to take over. After explaining to Green Gully that he needed senior coaching experience, his other club was determined not to lose him and agreed to a pay rise and rescheduling of his duties so he could train twice a week with Geelong and play in their matches. Going into the last round of State League Division Four, Geelong needed to beat Yarraville away to win the title. If Geelong lost or drew, then it stood to miss promotion altogether as North Coburg United was only a point behind. In front of one of the biggest crowds of the season, Geelong got up by a single goal from Vlado Stojanovski to crown another successful year for Stojcevski, who

seems to have both the talent and the edge of luck, which Napoleon wanted in his generals.

In the last two years, Taylor and Stojcevski have set up an integrated structure at Green Gully, whereby the Under 15s to the Youth come under the senior coach's responsibilities, with Stojcevski doing most of the co-ordination. Young players are looked after at each stage and know what is required of them as they move up through the levels. It has been a successful partnership producing four key youngsters who slotted into the Green Gully seniors which reached the play-offs in the Premier League, keeper Chris Vella, striker Vlad Babic, now being sought by Collingwood Warriors, Adam Cimino, captain of the victorious Victorian schoolboys and Dean Staface. Along the way, Stojcevski coached the Green Gully Reserves to their championship by a record margin and the Harry Armstrong Cup in 1996, the first time Green Gully had done this double in its history.

Born in the former Yugoslavia, Bobby Stojcevski came to Australia at the age of eight and had a successful junior career at Footscray JUST, along with his elder brother Vasko, culminating in selection for the Australian Schoolboys team. After three years in the National Soccer League with JUST, he did a mechanical engineering degree at Footscray Institute and continued to play with Polonia, winning the State League. He moved on to Westgate and Werribee, before moving to Green Gully in a coaching role.

Why did that happen? "I was becoming too slow as a player, but my mind was still working at a frantic pace. The



Slobode "Bobby" Stojcevski: An extremely busy man in both playing and coaching.

only way I could keep my mind working at a frantic pace was to turn to coaching."

What was it about coaching that attracted you? "Every time I played with young kids, I had always been a good guiding role for them because I had good rapport with them. They can't actually joke around with me, I'm a bit

too serious for that. The respect factor came into it, whatever I said they learned from. It has developed into a hunger from then on."

Like all good coaches, Stojcevski has a clear set of ideas about the game. "Football is a thinking game. People need to express themselves. They need to

make decisions. They need to be encouraged to play to their fullest. You can do that while playing under a certain structure. Discipline doesn't mean not dribbling. I had Robbie Noggler doing that, do you think I'd take that away? But when you try doing that and lose the ball, the discipline comes in chasing



back."

Stojcevski sees the National Youth League as the key for clubs like Green Gully. "The main development that you do is in the summer season, when you have ground to play on and you are not competing with twenty junior teams for space to play. You are not running around through mud. You are playing against clubs of the calibre of South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights with their senior players, so in the summer it is 70-80 per cent education, the rest is motivation. In winter it is the reverse, you have to just plough through the mud to get through it, so there is no time for education. We are going to take this a step forward this season with the Vic Health Youth League and the Under 15s. We have people there like Joe Tibone and John Gatt. So we are not just teaching kids but teaching coaches as well."

You are an ambitious man, you want to go forward in the game? "I have some high goals for myself. My immediate goal is to be a premier league coach and that

will happen one day. What happens after that, we will have to see and reassess at the time."

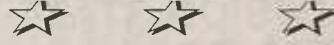
So what have you learned about coaching in your short career? "When a coach comes into a club they try to protect their own regime. So it crumbles under whoever comes next. I don't believe in that. We are brought in by the clubs to do a job for them. You have to put a structure in place which will survive. If you don't then it is the wrong structure. If you set up the structure the right way, then success will come your way. At Green Gully in the last half a dozen games we played with Steve Douglas and John Waddell injured and we had the young players come in as leaders in the club."

Married to Nota, with three young children, Bobby Stojcevski places great importance on the support of his close family. From that secure base he is developing a growing reputation as one of the most interesting coaching talents in the game today, with a bright future ahead of him.



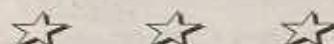
Johnnie Walker Cup Statistics for the Record

First Round, Second Leg



Collingwood Warriors:

Anastasiadis, Scott, Tsoomerkas, Talladira, Vlahos, Boutsianis (Karapatsos 82), Taliadoros, Iosifidis, MacNicol, Cerrachio, Mehechella.



Adelaide City:

Breadon, Armour, Yates, Brooks, Graziano, Brazzale (Costanzo 97), Mennillo, Gibson, Rodrigues (Saraceno 61), Dodd, De Jesus (Vershoor 61).

Referee: C. Diomos.

Collingwood won on penalties 3-1 AET

ADELAIDE CITY'S NARROW VICTORY

By LANCE LIBRANDI

ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Mori 68) WEST ADELAIDE 0

Adelaide City took out the first leg of the Fairmont Homes Cup at Hindmarsh Stadium on Wednesday night.

Ace striker Damian Mori is continuing where he left off last season and provided the winning goal in the 68th minute, with a well-timed header from a Michael Brooks cross.

Both teams had plenty of possession and scoring chances, but Mori's goal ensures City took a slight edge over West into last Saturday's return leg.

Gordon Pickard, owner of Fairmont Homes and patron sponsor of soccer in South Australia, has put up prize money of \$15,000 in for winner-takes-all challenge.

The Fairmont Homes Cup series has been held pre-season for the last ten years, and serves as an excellent warm-up for the upcoming

Ericsson Cup rounds.

Best:

Adelaide City: Armour, Brooks, Petkovic, Tobin; West Adelaide: Alagich, Borghetto, Castro, Slager.

Yellow cards:

Adelaide City: Hassell, Mennillo; West Adelaide: Thorp, Milosevic, Perin.



Alex Tobin: One of best on field against West Adelaide.

MORI TO GERMANY

BRIEFS:

Adelaide City striker Damian Mori will fly out to Germany on Sunday, following an approach from Bundesliga club Borussia Moenchengladbach.

The league's top scorer from last season is happy to have been given another opportunity to play professionally overseas, and is keen to accept the invitation to trial.

The offer came via a letter to the Zebras following recommendation from a Swiss agent who watched Mori's performance for the Socceroos in South Africa. The City board will now decide on a suitable contract agreement, with Mori favouring a stint on loan with an option to return to Adelaide if unable to settle in Europe.

Michael Musitano, gun signing for the Zebras this season from Canberra Cosmos, is still recovering from minor knee surgery and will probably miss the Ericsson Cup opening. The player has just resumed training and is probably three or four weeks away from playing.

EX DOLPHIN GOES ORIENT

ABSW EXCLUSIVE by BOB BROOKS

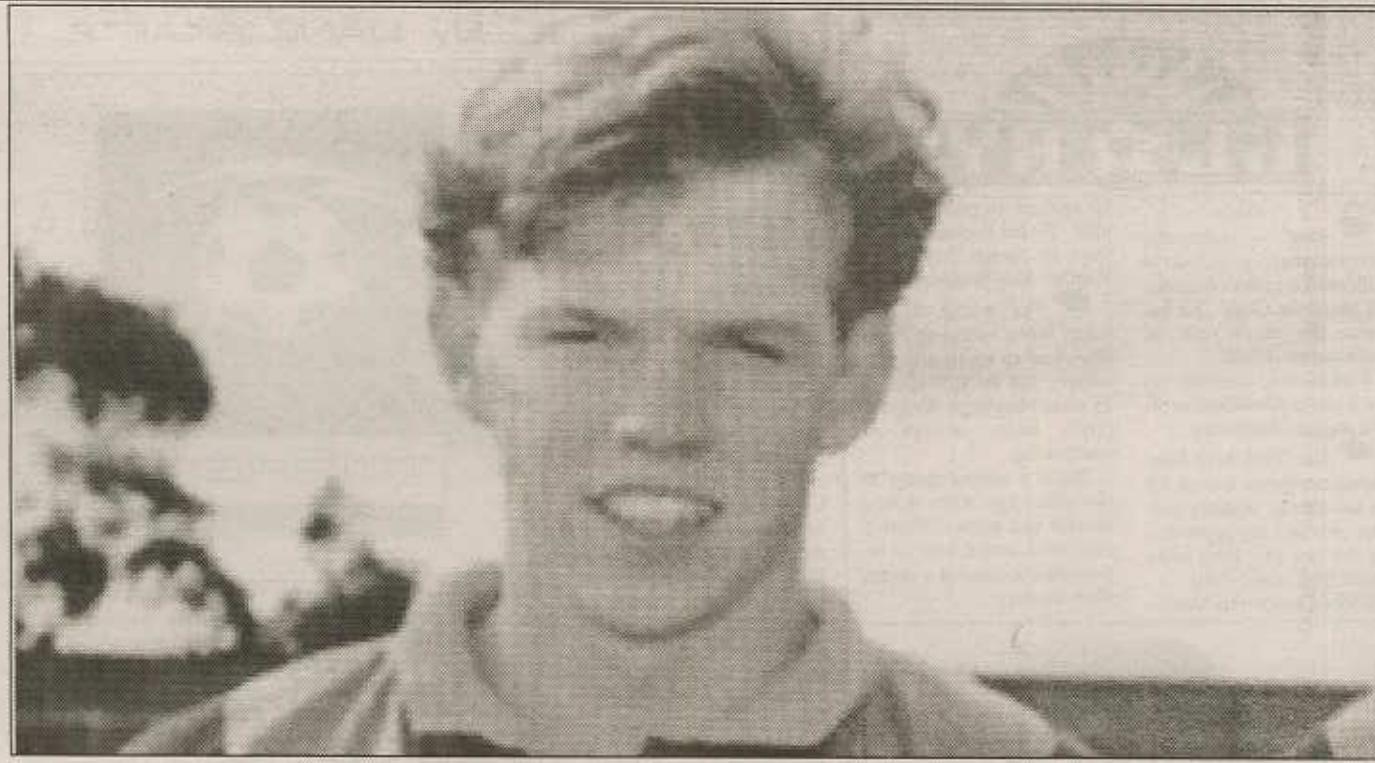
Leyton Orient, an exotic sounding club name but not as glamorous as Manchester United or even West Bromwich Albion.

Despite this a 20 year old called Steve Riches from Sydney's northern beaches is delighted to be a part of the team.

Riches was a member of the Warringah Dolphins side of 1995 which convincingly won the NSW Soccer Super League and Grand Final. He played almost all the home and away games but then departed for the USA before the finals series began.

He was accepted as a fully funded Soccer Scholarship holder at Campbell University, North Carolina. His Super League experience, the fact that he represented Australia Schoolboys and his Youth League exposure went a long way to ensure full funding.

Additionally his academic record was scrutinised to finally clinch his enrolment.



Steve Riches: Yet another player has realised his dream on a foreign shore.

He still harboured a dream to become a full time professional footballer (association that is). Despite a successful first year at Campbell he decided to try for a contract in England.

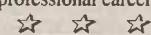
He went to West Ham as he knew Steve Mautone, Stan Lazaridis and Robbie Slater were there at the time. From the east London club it was north to Crewe for Dario Gradi to trial him.

While playing for the Gresty Road reserve side he was spotted by an England coach who recommended him to Leyton Orient.

Riches was offered a three year contract at Brisbane Road, another east London location, and signed agreeable terms.

He made his first team debut in the 0-1 loss to Rochdale when he came on as a substitute.

So another young Aussie is playing in Britain having realised his dream - a full time professional career.



Aussies Abroad...

Crystal Palace ran riot once again in the English First Division, Kevin Muscat and Carl Veart must be thinking they're playing rugby league.

The South Londoners hit another half-dozen, this time past hapless cellar-dwellers Southend, with the Aussie boys helping themselves to one apiece.

Four days earlier in the Coca Cola Cup, second division Bury came to Selhurst Park to receive some of the 'Treatment' and were duly spanked 4-0 with Kev & Carl bagging half the total.

We have no hesitation in awarding the *Star Performance of the Week to both Kevin Muscat and Carl Veart.

Craig Moore added an 'Old Firm' derby to his growing list of life's experiences. Over 50,000 in the boiling cauldron of Ibrox saw Rangers gain their first home win over their old foes in four years by 2-0.

We don't know why Walter Smith took Craig off after 62 minutes but 'shellshock' is a not uncommon reason for substituting young players in one of these 'encounters'.

Paul Okon played very well in his home-debut for Lazio at the Olympic Stadium in Rome. The Aussie lad looked like he'd been playing at Serie A level all his life and didn't seem undaunted by his responsibility of playing no less a role than 'midfield orchestrator', with Fuser and the Czech Nedved alongside of him.

He even laid on the Romans' second goal for Italy's solitary Euro 96 success story Casiraghi, to give Lazio a 2-1 win and lift them above the danger zone.



Kevin Muscat: Has boosted the Palace scoresheet recently with three goals in three games running.



Carl Veart: Has equalled Muscat's goalscoring for the London side.

Hills United SC TRIALS FOR 1997

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

U/21 & U/18 - 7.30 PM



Starting: TUESDAY 5TH NOV 1996

1st Grade Players Welcome

Enquiries: Lawrie McKinna 018 463 834

RAM YOUTH LEAGUE DIVISION 2 - 6.45p.m

U/13 Mondays — Oct 14, 21, 28 & Nov 4

U/14 Tuesdays — Oct 15, 22, 29 & Nov 5

U/15 Wednesdays — Oct 16, 23, 30 & Nov 6

U/16 Thursdays — Oct 17, 24, 31 & Nov 7

Enquiries: Wally Wallington 02 9624 8008

Joe Giovenali 02 9680 4697

HILLS UNITED/CASTLE HILL UNITED DIVISION 1 SUPER SQUAD

U/12 Fridays — Oct 18, 25 & Nov 1, 8

This Squad to receive Level 2 Coaching with a view to forming the basis of the 1998 U/13 Youth League

ALL TRIALS TO BE HELD AT FRED CATERSON RESERVE FIELD 4 OFF GILBERT RD., CASTLE HILL

MARCONI SOUTHERN DISTRICTS JUNIOR SOCCER SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS



GD: 13-6pm TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, then 17, 19, & 20

GD: 14-6PM TUESDAY OCTOBER 22, then 24, 26 & 27

GD: 15-6PM TUESDAY OCTOBER 29, 31, NOVEMBER 2 & 3

GD: 16-6PM TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 7, 9 & 10

TIMES: 6 PM Tuesday and Thursday

9 AM Saturday and Sunday

AT: CLUB MARCONI (Back Fields)

Enquiries: Contact: TOMMY McCULLOCH (Youth Development Officer)

015 010 939

CLUB MARCONI: 9832 2222

PERTH OVAL CHALLENGE

By BOB BROOKS

It is a race against time to get Perth Glory's home ground ready for the new Ericsson Cup season.

The co-tenants of Perth Oval made the finals of the local Aussie Rules competition and only finished their use of the ground on the last weekend of September.

The ground's outer has been re-arranged to make it more suitable for Soccer. 2,000 extra seats have been installed along one side while the existing 4,000 seater, fully covered stand will provide shelter from the burning Western Australia summer sun.

Vince Matassa has been appointed Marketing Services Manager in a full time capacity. Matassa, a more than competent goalkeeper, is studying for his marketing qualifications to add to his B Sc from the University of Western Australia.

The custodian spent last northern winter in England mainly with Wycombe Wanderers. Matassa made two first team appearances with the Buckinghamshire side.

However, he had a one month trial with Leeds United and played for the Elland Road side against a star studded Newcastle.

At Old Trafford Matassa sat on the bench as Cantona made his return to the playing pitch, after the Frenchman's long suspension. There were 20,000 there for the Reserve



Fixture!

New Zealand international, Gavin Wilkinson a central defender has joined the Glory. He has taken the dual role of Development Officer.

Wilkinson is currently on tour with the All Whites in SE Asia and the Middle East.

The Glory have been playing two games a week for the last month. Initially club sides provided the opposition but the last two have been against State select teams.

Bobby Despotovski have so

far notched 16 goals in these trials. He has been assisted up front by former Bayswater Panthers Alan McKenzie.

The whole of the South West, including Perth have had an unusually wet winter. For the first time in 25 years Mundaring Weir, the city's water storage is overflowing.

This is a marked change to two years ago when it was thought that some of Perth's population would have to be evacuated because of a severe water shortage.



Vince Matassa: Goalkeeping and marketing for Perth Glory makes him full time in Soccer.

BREAKERS LAUNCHED

By DANE SKAFTE

Newcastle Topper Breakers official season launch was made last Friday at the Maddison Motor Inn, Charlestown. Chairman of Topper Australia John Holder was guest speaker at the launch and spoke on his company's Argentine background. Mr Holder said Topper would be making a number of investments in sports promotion in Australia both at National League level and in the areas of local and junior development.

"In looking for an Ericsson Cup team to support we had several key criteria," Holder said. "These included a stable, professional management group, financial stability, a strong commitment to junior development, and quality coaching staff in a broad community based supporter base."

I am pleased to say that the Breakers are one of the few clubs in Australia that meet all of these requirements."

Holder concluded by saying "that our commitment to the Breakers is a long term one."

Breakers General Manager Pat Clarke said, "Topper's sponsorship will help the club's financial position."

"The Breakers need a period of at least three or four years before the Club can be a top four contender."

Meanwhile Adamstown's state league goalkeeper, Liam



Baker and striker Liam McGuire were given the all clear to play in last Saturday night's trial match against Sydney United at Breakers Stadium. The game finished in a 1-1 draw while the Youth Team went down to United 1-0. The two Buds players are at the centre of a transfer fee dispute with the Breakers.

ABSW understands that Adamstown has put a \$5,000 transfer fee on these players. Pat Clarke confirmed that the transfer fee continued to be a problem and the matter would go before Soccer Australia's tribunal.

Clarke agreed that the Breakers will abide by the tribunal's decision on the players transfer fee. No date has been set for the hearing so

far. Adamstown Rosebuds committee president Bill Wagstaff spoke with ABSW last week.

"We have spoken to the players concerned and have explained the situation to them."

"We were made an offer by the Breakers at the start but we (Adamstown) turned it down."

ABSW understands that the Breakers offered \$1000 for Baker but the Buds declined. According to Bill Wagstaff the club only wants a fair go.

"We have sent 15 players over there (Breakers) last year and so far 11 this season."

"The Breakers offered no money for McGuire we have been asking \$2000 for Liam

(McGuire) but the Breakers are not willing to pay this," Wagstaff concluded.



NNSW First division club Hamilton Warriors players, Harry James, Mathew Austin and Eves Heath have been given the all clear to play with the Breakers this season. The Warriors came to an agreement with the Breakers Soccer Committee midway through last week according to Hamilton's president Jim Papas.

"We signed the three contracts last Friday with coach John Kosmina. The three players concerned can now play with the Warriors next season once the Breakers have finished if they wish to."

"The committee's main aim is to make sure the players strive for the highest level possible."

Papas agreed that the committee was pleased with the end result. Meanwhile 20 year old Breakers striker Harry James is delighted that everything is sorted out.

"Hopefully I can now get on with playing and concentrate on the game this Friday against West Adelaide," James said.

James has signed a one year contract with the option to renew at the end of the season.



Wollongong City

By PHIL MURPHY

Wollongong City have signed eight new players for the start of the Ericsson Cup and they mean business.

"No more battling for survival at the bottom of the table," was the message from chairman Brian Hastings at a media launch last week.

Hastings said the club had taken on a full-time general manager and marketing manager, and the eight new faces in the team were already creating plenty of discussion.

Most interest is being shown in former Serbian first division defender Dejan Kaplanovic, a giant who would look just as comfortable on a basketball court.

Vadim Mikoutsky, who has played 14 times for Latvia, has arrived at Brandon Park via NSW first division champions Sydney Cosmos.

Midfielders Sonny Sevin and Michael Reda have been signed from Gippsland while New Zealand international Neil Harlock has boosted the team's strength on the left side of the field.

Up front, Nick Joseski has signed with the Wolves from Bankstown City, where he was top goalscorer in the State

Super League.

Two Super League defenders, Connolly, from Blacktown and Michael Kariamis (Canterbury) give coach Nick Theodorakopoulos plenty of depth.

Anthony Surjan (Parramatta) has also been trialling with the squad.

A lot will hinge on how well Kaplanovic and Mikoutsky perform at the back.

The team's prospects for the season could live or die with the two big men.

Nick Theodorakopoulos the Wolves Coach told ABSW his team would play an entertaining brand of football.

We will also win quite a few more games than we did last season," he said.

Theodorakopoulos arrived at Brandon Park last season after Berti Mariani left early in January.

While the Wolves stayed anchored near the bottom, they never lost by more than one goal after Theodorakopoulos arrived.

"I think we have a very good blend," the coach said. "Everyone at Brandon Park is very positive and our pre-season has been quite good."



Jason Connolly: Defender signed from Blacktown City is a strong player, hard to shift off the ball.

"It was pleasing that we beat Canberra 3-2 in a trial after giving away two early

goals.

"I have quite a few midfielders to select from and

that could be a problem I didn't have last season.

"Of course captain, Matt Horsley is again a key player in this department while I am looking to Reda to provide a spark when we go forward. Michael is a very experienced player and has slotted in really well."

There are also new faces in the board room.

At the recent annual meeting, five new directors were voted onto the board.

These include Wollongong Lord Mayor David Campbell, who sees a bright future for the Wolves.

A long time and keen soccer supporter, Cr Campbell said the Wollongong community always came out in force to watch winners.

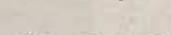
"I believe they will be right behind the Wolves this season," he said. "You get the impression things are going to start happening with the Wolves - all the signs are there."

Wollongong are away to Sydney United on Sunday night then tackle Adelaide City at home the following Sunday.

The club's marketing team have some big surprises in store for fans that evening.

WOLLONGONG CITY WOLVES

PERMANENT NUMBERS
for 1996/1997



1	Brett Hughes	Goalkeeper
2	Alvin Ceccoli	Defender
3	Vadim Mikoutski	Sweeper
4	Stephen Laybutt	Defender/Stopper
5	Martin Bourke	Midfielder
6	Mathew Horsley	Midfielder
7	Sony Sevin	Midfielder
8	Lupco Naumovski	Midfielder
9	Sasho Dimoski	Striker
10	Michael Reda	Midfielder
11	Tony Perenich	Striker
12	Neil Harlock	Defender/Midfielder
13	Nick Joseski	Striker
14	Richard Lloyd	Midfielder
15	Billy Cjakovski	Defender
16	Michael Kariamis	Defender
18	Dejan Kaplanovic	Defender
19	Jason Connolly	Defender
20	Adrian Thompson	Goalkeeper
23	Colin Luff	Striker





NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

ABSW

FIRST DIVISION GRAND FINAL SYDNEY COSMOS 1 RYDE CITY 0

PICTORIAL RECORD — PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB BROOKS



Sydney Cosmos celebrate their narrow victory over a gallant Ryde City at the Gabbie Stadium.



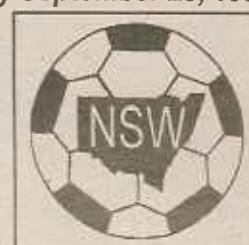
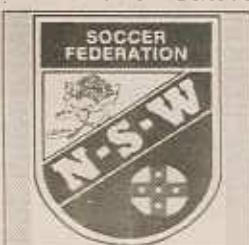
Greg Woods NSW SF Director presents Gerry Gomez with the trophy.



L-R: Gerry Gomez Captain Sydney Cosmos; Nick Asargiotis Assistant Referee; Chris Cowley Captain Ryde City; J. Tippett 4th official; Vic Gauci Assistant Referee; Alex Spirovski Referee of the First Division Grand Final on Saturday September 28, 1996.



Ryde City after their magnificent fighting display but ultimate 0-1 reversal. The season had been one of sadness with the loss of Warren Groneau but they excelled and made the more experienced Cosmos team fight every



ERICSSON CUP

DRAW 1996-1997

Round 1 - 11-13 Oct 1996

Fri	7.30pm	Topper Breakers	v	West Adelaide	....	D
Sat	7.00pm	Canberra Cosmos	v	Marconi Fairfield	....	E
Sat	7.30pm	Gippsland Falcons	v	South Melbourne	....	F
Sun	4.00pm	Perth Glory	v	UTS Olympic	....	J
Sun	7.30pm	Adelaide City	v	Brisbane Strikers	....	G
Sun	4.30pm	Collingwood Warriors	v	Melbourne Knights	....	M
Sun	6.30pm	Sydney United	v	Wollongong City	....	L

Round 9 - 6-8 Dec 1996

Fri	7.30pm	Wollongong City	v	West Adelaide	....	C
Fri	7.30pm	Topper Breakers	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	D
Sat	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	Perth Glory	....	K
Sun	7.30pm	Adelaide City	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	G
Sun	6.00pm	South Melbourne	v	UTS Olympic	....	B
Sun	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	Marconi Fairfield	....	H
Sun	6.30pm	Sydney United	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	L

Round 2 - 19-20 Oct 1996

Sat	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	Topper Breakers	....	K
Sat	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	I
Sun	6.00pm	South Melbourne	v	Sydney United	....	B
Sun	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	H
Sun	6.30pm	UTS Olympic	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	F
Sun	7.30pm	West Adelaide	v	Perth Glory	....	G
Sun	6.00pm	Wollongong City	v	Adelaide City	....	C

Round 10 - 14-15 Dec 1996

Sat	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	Topper Breakers	....	I
Sat	5.00pm	Perth Glory	v	Wollongong City	....	J
Sat	7.00pm	Canberra Cosmos	v	Brisbane Strikers	....	E
Sat	7.30pm	Gippsland Falcons	v	Sydney United	....	F
Sun	6.30pm	UTS Olympic	v	Melbourne Knights	....	A
Sun	7.30pm	West Adelaide	v	South Melbourne	....	G
Sun	7.30pm	Collingwood Warriors	v	Adelaide City	....	M

Round 3 - 26-27 Oct 1996

Sat	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	Wollongong City	....	K
Sat	7.00pm	Canberra Cosmos	v	West Adelaide	....	I
Sat	7.30pm	Gippsland Falcons	v	Marconi Fairfield	....	F
Sat	7.30pm	Topper Breakers	v	Perth Glory	....	D
Sun	7.30pm	Adelaide City	v	South Melbourne	....	G
Sun	4.30pm	Collingwood Warriors	v	UTS Olympic	....	M
Sun	6.30pm	Sydney United	v	Melbourne Knights	....	L

Round 11 - 20-22 Dec 1996

Fri	7.30pm	Wollongong City	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	C
Fri	7.30pm	Topper Breakers	v	Sydney United	....	D
Sat	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	K
Sat	8.00pm	South Melbourne	v	Perth Glory	....	B
Sat	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	UTS Olympic	....	G
Sun	7.30pm	Adelaide City	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	H
Sun	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	West Adelaide	....	L

Round 4 - 1-3 Nov 1996

Fri	5.30pm	Canberra	v	Breakers (Rd 19)	....	E
Sat	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	Sydney United	....	I
Sun	4.00pm	Perth Glory	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	J
Sun	6.00pm	Wollongong City	v	Topper Breakers	....	C
Sun	6.00pm	South Melbourne	v	Brisbane Strikers	....	B
Sun	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	Adelaide City	....	H
Sun	6.30pm	UTS Olympic	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	A
Sun	7.30pm	West Adelaide	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	G

Round 12 - 28-29 Dec 1996

Sat	5.00pm	Perth Glory	v	Melbourne Knights	....	J
Sat	7.00pm	Canberra Cosmos	v	South Melbourne	....	E
Sat	7.30pm	Gippsland Falcons	v	Brisbane Strikers	....	F
Sun	6.30pm	UTS Olympic	v	Topper Breakers	....	A
Sun	7.30pm	West Adelaide	v	Marconi Fairfield	....	G
Sun	6.00pm	Collingwood Warriors	v	Wollongong City	....	M
Sun	6.30pm	Sydney United	v	Adelaide City	....	L

Round 5 - 8-10 Nov 1996

Fri	7.30pm	Wollongong City	v	South Melbourne	....	C
Fri	7.30pm	Topper Breakers	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	D
Sat	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	Melbourne Knights	....	K
Sat	7.30pm	Gippsland Falcons	v	West Adelaide	....	F
Sun	7.30pm	Adelaide City	v	Marconi Fairfield	....	G
Sun	5.30pm	Collingwood Warriors	v	Perth Glory	....	M
Sun	6.30pm	Sydney United	v	UTS Olympic	....	L

Round 13 - 3-5 Jan 1996

Fri	7.30pm	Wollongong City	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	C
Sat	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	Sydney United	....	K
Sat	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	Perth Glory	....	I
Sun	7.30pm	Adelaide City	v	Topper Breakers	....	G
Sun	7.00pm	South Melbourne	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	B
Sun	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	H
Sun	6.30pm	UTS Olympic	v	West Adelaide	....	A

Round 6 - 16-17 Nov 1996

Sat	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	Brisbane Strikers	....	I
Sat	4.00pm	Perth Glory	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	J
Sat	7.00pm	Canberra Cosmos	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	E
Sun	6.00pm	South Melbourne	v	Topper Breakers	....	B
Sun	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	Wollongong City	....	H
Sun	6.30pm	UTS Olympic	v	Adelaide City	....	A
Sun	7.30pm	West Adelaide	v	Sydney United	....	G

ERICSSON CUP

DRAW 1996-1997

Round 17 - 14-16 Feb 1996

Fri	7.30pm	Wollongong City	v	Brisbane Strikers	....	C
Sat	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	I
Sat	5.00pm	Perth Glory	v	Topper Breakers	....	J
Sun	7.00pm	South Melbourne	v	Adelaide City	....	B
Sun	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	Sydney United	....	H
Sun	6.30pm	UTS Olympic	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	A
Sun	7.30pm	West Adelaide	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	G

Round 22 - 21-23 Mar 1996

Fri	7.30pm	Topper Breakers	v	Melbourne Knights	....	D
Sat	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	West Adelaide	....	K
Sat	7.30pm	Gippsland Falcons	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	F
Sun	7.30pm	Adelaide City	v	Perth Glory	....	G
Sun	7.00pm	South Melbourne	v	Marconi Fairfield	....	B
Sun	6.30pm	Sydney United	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	L
Sun	6.00pm	Wollongong City	v	UTS Olympic	....	C

Round 18 - 21-23 Feb 1996

Fri	7.30pm	Topper Breakers	v	Wollongong City	....	D
Sat	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	South Melbourne	....	K
Sat	7.00pm	Canberra Cosmos	v	Perth Glory	....	E
Sat	7.30pm	Gippsland Falcons	v	UTS Olympic	....	F
Sun	7.30pm	Adelaide City	v	Melbourne Knights	....	G
Sun	6.00pm	Collingwood Warriors	v	West Adelaide	....	M
Sun	6.30pm	Sydney United	v	Marconi Fairfield	....	L

Round 23 - 29-30 Mar 1996

Sat	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	Melbourne Knights	....	I
Sat	4.00pm	Perth Glory	v	Brisbane Strikers	....	J
Sat	7.00pm	Canberra Cosmos	v	Adelaide City	....	E
Sat	7.30pm	Gippsland Falcons	v	Topper Breakers	....	F
Sun	6.30pm	UTS Olympic	v	South Melbourne	....	FAG
Sun	7.30pm	West Adelaide	v	Wollongong City	....	G
Sun	4.30pm	Collingwood Warriors	v	Sydney United	....	M

Round 19 - 28 Feb-2 Mar 1996

Fri	8.00pm	South Melbourne	v	Wollongong City	....	B
Sat	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	Adelaide City	....	I
Sun	4.00pm	Perth Glory	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	J
Sun	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	Brisbane Strikers	....	H
Sun	6.00pm	UTS Olympic	v	Sydney United	....	A
Sun	7.30pm	West Adelaide	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	G

Round 24 - 4-6 Apr 1996

Fri	7.30pm	Topper Breakers	v	Marconi Fairfield	....	D
Sat	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	K
Sat	7.30pm	Wollongong City	v	Perth Glory	....	C
Sun	7.30pm	Adelaide City	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	G
Sun	3.00pm	South Melbourne	v	West Adelaide	....	B
Sun	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	UTS Olympic	....	H
Sun	6.30pm	Sydney United	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	L

Round 20 - 7-9 Mar 1996

Fri	7.30pm	Wollongong City	v	Melbourne Knights	....	C
Fri	7.30pm	Topper Breakers	v	South Melbourne	....	D
Sat	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	Marconi Fairfield	....	K
Sat	7.30pm	Gippsland Falcons	v	Perth Glory	....	F
Sun	7.30pm	Adelaide City	v	UTS Olympic	....	G
Sun	6.00pm	Collingwood Warriors	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	M
Sun	6.30pm	Sydney United	v	West Adelaide	....	L

Round 25 - 12-13 Apr 1996

Sat	4.00pm	Perth Glory	v	South Melbourne	....	I
Sat	7.00pm	Canberra Cosmos	v	Wollongong City	....	E
Sat	7.30pm	Gippsland Falcons	v	Adelaide City	....	P
Sun	6.30pm	UTS Olympic	v	Marconi Fairfield	....	A
Sun	7.30pm	West Adelaide	v	Melbourne Knights	....	G
Sun	4.30pm	Collingwood Warriors	v	Brisbane Strikers	....	M
Sun	6.30pm	Sydney United	v	Topper Breakers	....	L

Round 21 - 15-16 Mar 1996

Sat	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	Wollongong City	....	I
Sat	4.00pm	Perth Glory	v	Sydney United	....	J
Sat	7.00pm	Canberra Cosmos	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	E
Sun	6.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	South Melbourne	....	H
Sun	6.30pm	UTS Olympic	v	Brisbane Strikers	....	A
Sun	7.30pm	West Adelaide	v	Adelaide City	....	G
Sun	6.00pm	Collingwood Warriors	v	Topper Breakers	....	M

Round 26 - 20 Apr 1996

Sun	6.30pm	Adelaide City	v	Sydney United	....	G
Sun	7.00pm	Brisbane Strikers	v	Gippsland Falcons	....	K
Sun	7.00pm	Wollongong City	v	Collingwood Warriors	....	C
Sun	7.00pm	South Melbourne	v	Canberra Cosmos	....	B
Sun	7.00pm	Melbourne Knights	v	Perth Glory	....	H
Sun	7.00pm	Marconi Fairfield	v	West Adelaide	....	I
Sun	7.00pm	Topper Breakers	v	UTS Olympic	....	D

KEY TO GROUNDS

- A. BELMORE SPORTS GROUND, Leylands Parade, Canterbury, NSW
- B. BOB JANE STADIUM, Albert Road Drive, Albert Park, VIC
- C. BRANDON PARK, Squires Way, Fairy Meadow, NSW
- D. BREAKERS STADIUM, Sandgate Road, Birmingham Gardens - Newcastle, NSW
- E. BRUCE STADIUM, Canberra, ACT
- F. FALCONS PARK, Crinigan Road, Morwell, VIC
- G. HINDMARSH STADIUM, Holden Street, Hindmarsh, ACT
- H. KNIGHTS PARK, Somers Street, North Sunshine, VIC
- I. MARCONI STADIUM, Marconi Road, Bossley Park, NSW
- J. PERTH OVAL, Pier Street, East Perth, WA
- K. SUNCORP STADIUM, Castlemaine Street, Milton, QLD
- L. SYDNEY UNITED SPORT CENTRE, Edensor Road, Edensor Park, NSW
- M. VICTORIA PARK, Lulie Street, Abbotsford, VIC



WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

Austria First Division

Rapid Vienna	4 GAK	0	Luton	3 Walsall	1	Brighton	11	2	2	7	10	21	8	St Pauli	9	2	2	5	11	19	8
FC Linz	3 Tirol Innsbruck	0	Plymouth	0 Millwall	0	Nancy	2	Vitesse Arnhem	4	Feyenoord Rotterdam	2	Arminia Bielefeld	9	1	3	5	8	13	6		
SCN Admira Wacker	1 SV Salzburg	1	Preston	3 Peterborough	4	Marseille	0	Twente Enschede	1	Ajax Amsterdam	1	Freiburg	9	2	0	7	12	28	6		
Ried	2 LASK	0	Wycombe	1 Notts County	0	Monaco	1	Groningen	1	AZ Alkmaar	0										
Sturm Graz	4 Austria Vienna	1	York	1 Watford	2	Lyon	1	RKC Wallwijk	1	NAC Breda	2										

Table

Rapid Vienna	11	5	6	0	21	8	21	Barnet	0 Torquay	0	Lens	0	Vitesse Arnhem	4	Feyenoord Rotterdam	2		
Tirol Innsbruck	11	6	3	2	17	10	21	Cambridge United	1 Hartlepool	0	Montpellier	0	Twente Enschede	1	Ajax Amsterdam	1		
Austria Vienna	11	4	3	4	13	19	15	Darlington	1 Rochdale	1	Strasbourg	3	Groningen	1	AZ Alkmaar	0		
Sturm Graz	11	3	4	4	13	12	13	Doncaster	2 Leyton Orient	1	Nantes	3	Parta Rotterdam	1	NEC Nijmegen	0		
GAK	11	3	4	4	11	16	13	Hereford	2 Scarborough	2	Cannes	2	Volendam	2	Heerenveen	2		
Ried	11	3	2	6	14	16	11	Hull	0 Scunthorpe	2	Caen	1	Utrecht	2	PSY Eindhoven	2		
LASK	10	2	4	4	10	15	10	Lincoln	2 Exeter	3	Guingamp	2	Graafschap Doetinchem	2	Willem II Tilburg	2		
Admira Wacker	11	1	5	5	10	19	8	Northampton	0 Fulham	1	PSG	2	Roda JC Kerkrade	0	Fortuna Sittard	1		
FC Linz	10	1	4	5	5	11	7	Wigan	1 Brighton	0	Auxerre	-						

Belgium First Division

Lommel	0 Genk	0	Swansea	1 Colchester	1	Bordeaux	Metz	0 Cannes	0	Rodea	8	3	4	1	9	4	13	13			
Mouscron	5 Sint Truiden	0					Marseille	2 Guingamp	1	NAC Breda	8	4	1	3	6	9	13				
Cercle Brugge	1 Harelbeke	2					Lille	1 Caen	0	Granschap	8	3	3	2	14	10	12				
Antwerp	3 Ghent	1	Bolton	10	7	2	1	24	13	23	Lyon	1 Paris Saint-Germain	1	Heerenveen	8	3	3	2	16	11	12
Charleroi	3 Club Brugge	0	Norwich	10	6	3	1	14	6	21	Rennes	2 Montpellier	0	Ajax	8	3	3	2	6	6	12
Mechelen	0 Molenbeek	2	Barnsley	9	6	1	2	17	10	19	Nice	1 Nancy	0	Fortuna Sittard	8	3	2	3	7	10	11
Aalst	1 Standard Liege	2	Tranmere	11	5	3	3	16	13	18	Paris St Germain	2 Le Havre	0	NEC Nijmegen	8	2	3	3	9	13	9
Lokeren	0 Ekeren	1	Crystal Palace	10	4	5	1	23	10	17	Montpellier	3 Bastia	1	Sparta	8	2	2	4	6	9	8
Anderlecht	0 Lierse	0	Wolverhampton	11	5	2	4	15	12	17	Caen	0 Bordeaux	0	AZ Alkmaar	8	2	1	5	5	8	7

Table

Standard Liege	9	7	0	2	16	10	21	Ipswich	10	3	5	2	16	13	14	Paris SG	11	7	4	0	17	3	25
Club Brugge	9	5	3	1	19	9	18	Oxford	10	4	2	4	13	8	14	Monaco	11	5	4	2	18	10	19
Mouscron	9	5	3	1	19	9	18	Sheffield United	8	4	1	3	16	12	13	Bastia	11	5	4	2	17	12	19
Anderlecht	9	4	5	0	17	4	17	Huddersfield	8	4	1	3	13	11	13	Bordeaux	11	4	6	1	11	5	18
Ghent	9	4	2	3	17	17	14	West Bromwich	9	3	4	2	13	12	13	Lille	11	4	5	2	14	10	17
Antwerp	8	4	1	3	12	15	13	Queens Park Ran	11	3	4	4	12	14	13	Nantes	11	4	5	1	11	5	18

Table

Charleroi	9	4	1	4	16	13	13	Manchester City	9	4	0	5	9	11	12	Paris SG	11	7	4	0	17	3	25
Lommel	9	3	4	2	14	15	1	Port Vale	11	2	6	3	9	13	12	Monaco	11	5	4	2	18	10	19
Lierse	9	2	6	1	11	7	12	Grimsby	11	3	2	6	14	23	11	Bastia	11	5	4	2	17	12	19
Genk	9	2	5	2	9	10	11	Swindon	10	3	2	5	11	13	11	Rennes	11	4	5	1	11	5	18
Aalst	9	2	4	3	12	13	10	Portsmouth	11	3	2	6	11	17	11	Caen	11	4	3	2	15	16	15
Molenbeek	9	2	4	3	8	11	10	Bradford	11	3	2	6	9	16	11	Bordeaux	11	4	6	1	11	5	18
Lokeren	8	2	3	3	11	9	9	Reading	10	3	1	6	11	21	10	Auxerre	11	4	6	1	11	5	18
Harelbeke	9	2	3	4	9	12	9	Southend	11	2	4	5	11	22	10	Metz	11	4	6	1	12	8	18

Table

Ekeren	9	2	2	5	8	13	8	Charlton	8	3	1	4	7	8	10	Lyon	11	4	5	2	14	10	17

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WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

Italian Teams

Milan 3 Perugia 0
 Milan: Rossi, Panucci, Costacurta, Desailly, Maldini, Eranio (Locatelli 80), Albertini, Ambrosini (R. Baggio 46), Boban, Weah, Simone.
 Perugia: Kocic, Goretta, Dicara, Cottini, Di Chiara (Manicone 30), Kreek, Giunti, Allegri, Gautieri, Negri (Rapajc 56), Pizzi.
 Scorers: Milan – Weah 2, 74, R. Baggio 79.

Piacenza 1 Vicenza 0

Piacenza: Taibi, Lucci, Polonia, Conte, Tramezzani, Di Francesco, Scienza, Pin, Valoti, Luiso (Moretti 70), Piovani.

Vicenza: Mondini, Mendez, Sartor, Lopez, D'Ignazio, Sotgia (Rossi 46), Viviani (Amerini 60), Maini, Beghetto, Cornacchini (Otero 46), Murgita.

Scorers: Piacenza – Luiso 43.

Atalanta 1 Inter 1

Atalanta: Pinato, Herrera, Sgro, Sottil, Foglio, Fortunato (Persson 46), Gallo, Rossini, Morfeo (Rotella 86), Lentini, Inzaghi.

Inter: Pagliuca, Angloma, Fresi, Paganin, Pistone, Zanetti, Ince, Sforza, Winter, Branca (Zamorano 76), Djorkaeff.

Scorers: Atalanta – Inzaghi 85, Inter – Djorkaeff 44.

Reggiana 1 Roma 1

Reggiana: Ballotta, Hatz, Mazzola, Beiersdorfer, Gregucci (De Napoli 86), Pedone (Sciaccia 72), Grun, Schenardi, A. Carbone (Valencia 60), Tovalieri, Tonetto.

Roma: Sterchele, Annoni, Trotta, Aldair, Lanna, Tommasi, Di Biagio, Thern, Carboni, Balbo, Fonseca (Beretta 70).

Scorers: Reggiana – Valencia 78, Roma – Tommasi 6.

Sampdoria 0 Napoli 1

Sampdoria: Ferron, Balleri, Mannini, Mihajlovic, Evani, Karembeu, Franceschetti (Salsano 81), Veron (Zanini 60), Iacopino, Montella, Mancini.

Napoli: Tagliafate, Cruz, Baldini, Ayala, Colonnese, Turrini (Esposito 72), Longo, Beto (Policano 75), Peccia, Caio (Crasson 65), Caccia.

Scorers: Napoli – Beto 73.

Lazio 2 Parma 1

Lazio: Marchegiani, Negro, Nesta, Chamot, Favali, Fuser, Okon, Nedved, Protti, Casiragli, Signori (Rambaudi 83).

Parma: Bucci, Ze Maria, Thuram, Sensini, Cannavaro, Strada (Melli 60), Baggio, Bravo, Crippa, Chiesa, Zola.

Scorers: Lazio – Protto 26, Casiragli 65, Parma – Baggio 65.

Udinese 2 Bologna 2

Udinese: Battistini, Bertotto, Calori, Bia, Sergio, Helveg, Rossitto, Desideri, A. Orlando (Giannichedda 55), Bierhoff, Poggi (Amoroso 81).

Bologna: Antonioli, Tarozzi, Torrisi, De Marchi, paramatti, Bresciani (Nervo 7), Bergamo (Shalimov 70), Marocchi, Pavoni (Magoni 46), Kolyvanov, Andersson.

Scorers: Udinese – Bia 5, Bierhoff 16, Bologna – Marocchi 38, Nervo 84.

Verona 2 Cagliari 2

Verona: Gregori, Fattori, Caverzan, Baroni, Vanoli, Orlandini (Binotto 46), Giunta, Bacci, Manetti, De Vitis, Maniero.

Cagliari: Pascolo, Pancaro, Villa, Vega, Bettarini, Sanna, Lonstrup, Bisoli, Cozza, Silva, Romero.

Scorers: Verona – Bacci 31, Binotto 48, Cagliari – Silva 5, Cozza 32.

Note: In order to keep you up to date, the Italy details are one week old.

There were no Serie A games over the weekend due to international matches.

Japan J-League

– Sept 30 –

Urawa Red Diamonds 1 Avispa Fukuoka 1
 (Urawa won 3-2 on pens)

Jubilo Iwata 1 Yokohama Marinos 0

Kashima Antlers 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1

(Hiroshima won 9-8 on pens)

Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 Kashiba Reysol 2

JEF United Ichihara 1 Kyoto Purple Sanga 0

Cerezo Osaka 2 Shimizu S-Pulse 3

Yokohama Flugels 3 Gamba Osaka 2

Verdy Kawasaki 1 Bellmare Hiratsuka 0

– Oct 4 –

Cerezo Osaka 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1
 Kashima Antlers 2 Bellmare Hiratsuka 0
 Shimizu S-Pulse 3 Gamba Osaka 2
 Verdy Kawasaki 1 Avispa Fukuoka 2
 Urawa Red Diamonds 0 Jubilo Iwata 2
 JEF United Ichihara 2 Kashiba Reysol 3
 Yokohama Flugels 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0
 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Yokohama Marinos 0

Table

Kashima Antlers 16 7 51 23 51
 Nagoya Eight 17 6 53 31 51
 Urawa Diamond 16 7 45 26 49
 Jubilo Iwata 16 7 42 30 49
 Kashiba Reysol 16 7 54 39 48
 Verdy Kawasaki 14 9 51 37 42
 JEF United Ich 12 11 37 32 36
 Yokohama Mar 11 12 30 31 33
 Shimizu S-Pulse 9 14 40 45 28
 Gamba Osaka 9 14 33 46 27
 Bellmare Hiratsu 8 15 33 50 24
 Sanfrecce Hirosh 8 15 25 43 24
 Avispa Fukuoka 7 16 32 48 23
 Cerezo Osaka 6 17 26 46 18
 Kyoto Purple San 3 20 13 50 9

Romania First Division

Universitatea Cluj 1 Dinamo Bucharest 1
 F.C. Farul Constanta 3 Otelul Galati 1
 Steaua Bucharest 3 Sportul Studentesc 1
 F.C. Chindia Tirgoviste 2 Jiul Petrosani 0
 A.S. Bacau 1 Gloria Bistrita 1
 Politehnica Timisoara 0 Universitatea Craiova 4
 Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt 3 F.C. Petrolul Ploiesti 2
 F.C. National Bucharest 3 F.C. Arges Dacia Pitesti 1
 Rapid Bucharest 1 F.C. Brasov 0

Table

Dinamo Buch 9 6 1 2 16 7 19
 Steaua Bucharest 9 6 1 2 17 10 19
 F.C. Nat Buch 9 6 1 2 16 9 19
 F.C. Chindia Tirg 9 6 0 3 11 8 18
 Otelul Galati 9 5 1 3 18 12 16
 Universitatea Cluj 9 4 4 1 12 8 16
 Jiul Petrosani 9 5 1 3 11 11 16
 F.C. Farul Const 9 4 2 3 13 8 14
 A.S. Bacau 9 3 4 2 12 8 13
 Ceahlaul Pia Nea 9 3 3 3 9 11 12
 Universitatea Cra 9 3 2 4 14 13 11
 Arges Dacia Pite 9 3 2 4 11 12 11
 Rapid Bucharest 9 3 2 4 11 13 11
 Sportul Student 9 3 2 4 11 15 11
 Politehnica Tim 9 2 1 6 14 22 7
 Gloria Bistrita 9 1 2 6 6 17 5
 F.C. Brasov 9 1 2 6 9 21 5
 Petrolul Ploiesti 9 0 3 6 10 16 3

Russia Premier League

Torpedo Moscow 0 Lokomotiv Nizhny Nov 0
 Rostselmash Rostov 2 Tekstilshchik Kamyshin 1
 Zenit St Petersburg 2 Lada Togliatti 1
 Zhemchuzhina Sochi 0 CSKA Moscow 1
 Baltika Kaliningrad 0 Lokomotiv Moscow 1
 KamAZ Naberezhnye Chel 1 Spartak Moscow 2
 Dynamo Moscow 2 Krylya Sovetov Samara 1
 Uralmash Yekaterinburg 4 Chernomorets Nov 0
 Alania Vladikavkaz 3 Rotor Volgograd 2

Table

Volgograd 30 19 6 5 55 24 63
 AVladikavkaz 30 19 6 5 56 32 63
 Spartak Moscow 30 18 8 4 60 28 62
 Dynamo Moscow 30 18 7 5 50 27 61
 CSKA Moscow 30 18 6 6 52 29 60
 Lokomotiv Mos 30 13 10 7 39 26 49
 LNizhny Nov 30 12 6 12 32 41 42
 Torpedo Moscow 30 10 11 9 36 37 41
 Zenit St P'burg 30 12 4 14 29 32 40
 KSovetov Samara 30 10 8 12 25 35 38
 Baltika Kalin 30 9 10 11 33 32 37
 Rostselmash Ros 30 9 7 14 49 52 34
 Chernomorets Nov 30 9 5 16 30 46 32
 Zhemchuzh Soc 30 9 4 17 31 50 31
 KamAz Nab Che 30 7 6 17 33 49 27
 Uralmash Yekat 30 6 9 15 34 52 27
 Tekstilshch Kam 30 3 11 16 21 41 20
 Lada Togliatti 30 4 6 20 17 49 18

Scotland

Division 1

Airdrieonians p St Mirren 1
 Dundee 2 Clydebank 1
 East Fife 3 Falkirk 1
 Stirling p St Johnstone 1

Division 2

Brechin 3 Berwick 2
 Dumbarton 1 Ayr 1

Livingston

0 Clyde 0
 Stenhousemuir 0 Hamilton 1
 Stranraer 2 Queen of the South 1

Division 3

Albion 1 Montrose 2
 East Stirling 0 Ross County 1
 Forfar 2 Cowdenbeath 5
 Inverness C. Thistle 2 Arbroath 0
 Queen's Park 2 Alloa 1

Division 1

Dundee 8 5 2 1 9 4 17
 Greenock Morton 8 5 1 2 12 7 16
 St Johnstone 7 3 2 2 11 5 11
 Falkirk 8 3 2 3 6 6 11
 Airdrieonians 7 2 4 1 9 8 10
 Clydebank 8 3 1 4 7 11 10
 St Mirren 7 2 1 4 9 9 7
 Partick 8 1 4 3 7 10 7
 East Fife 8 1 4 3 7 14 7
 Stirling 7 1 3 3 6 9 6

Division 2

Livingston 8 6 2 0 14 6 20
 Ayr 8 5 2 1 19 9 17
 Hamilton 8 5 2 1 15 6 17
 Queen of South 8 3 2 3 12 12 11
 Clyde 8 3 2 3 7 8 11
 Stranraer 8 3 2 3 7 9 11
 Stenhousemuir 8 1 3 4 8 6 6
 Brechin 8 1 3 4 6 11 6
 Dumbarton 8 1 3 4 9 15 6
 Berwick 8 1 1 6 11 26 4

Division Three

Montrose 8 5 1 2 14 7 16
 Albion 8 4 3 1 11 5 15
 Cowdenbeath 8 4 2 2 12 8 14
 Inverness Thistle 8 4 2 2 12 9 14
 Alloa 8 3 3 2 9 8 12
 Queen's Park 8 2 4 2 12 15 10
 Ross County 8 3 0 5 9 12 9
 Arbroath 8 1 4 3 6 9 7
 Forfar 8 2 1 5 12 18 7
 East Stirling 8 1 2 5 6 12 5

South Korea Pro League

Pohang 3 Suwon 0
 Chonan 3 Ulsan 2

Table

Pohang 8 5 2 1 19 13 17
 Puchon 9 5 2 2 14 10 17
 Suwon 9 3 5 1 13 9 14
 Chonan 8 4 2 2 21 18 14
 Chonnam 8 3 3 2 11 9 12
 Anyang 9 2 5 2 14 15 11
 Chonbuk 8 2 1 5 11 15 7
 Pusan 9 1 4 1 11 17 7
 Ulsan 10 2 0 8 18 26 6

Spain First Division

Sevilla 0 Atletico Madrid 0

Table

Real Madrid 6 4 2 0 11 4 14
 Barcelona 6 4 2 0 16 10 14
 Real Betis 6 4 1 1 11 3 13
 Deportivo Coruna 6 3 3 0 11 4 12
 Real Sociedad 6 3 2 1 8 5 11
 Tenerife 6 3 1 2 15 5 10
 Atletico Madrid 6 3 1 2 9 5 10
 Logrones 6 3 1 2 7 7 10
 Racing Santander 6 3 1 2 8 9 10
 Oviedo 6 3 0 3 10 10 9
 Valladolid 6 2 2 2 6 4 8
 Sporting Gijon 6 2 2 2 7 11 8
 Rayo Vallecano 6 2 1 3 11 7 7
 Espanyol 6 2 1 3 11 10 7
 Valencia 6 2 1 3 8 7 7
 Celta Vigo 6 2 1 3 6 8 7
 Athletic Bilbao 6 2 1 3 8 13 7
 Compostela 6 2 1 3 6 14 7
 Zaragoza 6 1 3 2 9 12 6
 Sevilla 6 1 1 4 2 6 4
 Hercules 6 1 0 5 2 14 3
 Extremadura 6 0 0 6 3 17 0

Sweden First Division

AIK 1 Umea 1
 Degerfors 3 Trelleborg 1
 Gothenburg 5 Oster 1
 Halmstad 2 Malmo 3
 Helsingborg 2 Orgryte 1
 Norrkoping 1 Orebro 3
 Oddevold 1 Djurgarden 2

Table

Gothenburg 23 14 5 4 49 20 47
 Helsingborg 23 12 5 6 34 20 41
 Malmo 23 10 7 6 26 23 37
 AIK 23 10 6 7 30 19 36
 Halmstad 23 9 7 7 29 29 34

World Cup Results

Moldova 1 Italy 3

Curtianu (1) Ravenlli (8,87)

Casiragli (68)

WORLD STORIES

SOUTH AFRICAN LEADS IN GERMANY

Austria's Andreas Herzog, a Bayern Munich castoff, took his revenge with two goals as Werder Bremen trounced his former club 3-0 in the Bundesliga.

Munich's loss dropped the troubled team into third place behind VfB Stuttgart, which blasted 1860 Munich 5-2. Bayer Leverkusen, slipping past Schalke, 2-1, moved into second.

Herzog converted a penalty in the 23rd minute and added his second goal in the 47th as he wiped away some memories of a painful year at Munich. The midfielder, signed with much fanfare, was quickly banished to the bench.

Forward Bruno Labbadia, another former Munich player, scored in the 70th minute for Bremen, whose players dominated the German national team players that lined up for Bayern.

Forward Juergen Klinsmann and midfielder Mario Basler were substituted for the second half, but that didn't lift a dispirited Munich squad. Herzog came closer to firing a hatrick than they did to avoiding a whitewash.

He now has scored six goals, placing him among the league leaders.

If Bayern Munich hasn't lived up to pre-season expectations, then Stuttgart has exceeded them. 1860 Munich opened furiously

against them with Bernhard Winkler scoring in the seventh minute off a perfect pass by playmaker Peter Nowak.

But the match turned into another rout for Stuttgart after Brazil's Giovane Elber and Matthias Hagner shot their team to a 2-1 lead with a two-minute outburst midway through the first half.

Elber scored again, along with Svenimir Soldo and Fredi Bobic, before Ghana's Abedi Pele unloaded his first Bundesliga goal for 1860.

Leverkusen won its fourth straight, despite being shocked by Schalke seizing the lead by Johan de Kock's second-minute goal. The team rebounded with shots by Erik Meijer and Brazil's Paulo

Sergio.

Fortuna Duesseldorf also upset Borussia Moenchengladbach 1-0 with a Karl Werner penalty, while Hamburger SV and MSV Duisburg drew 1-1 and SC Freiburg edged Hansa Rostock 1-0.

South African forward Sean Dundee had a hattrick Friday, giving him a league-best nine goals, as Karlsruher SC blasted Arminia Bielefeld 5-2. FC Cologne also beat VfL Bochum 2-0.

Harald Spoerl put away an equaliser with three minutes to play to help Hamburg save a draw against Duisburg, whose goal came from Torsten Wohlgert.

Panama striker Julio Cesar Dely Valdes saved Paris St Germain's unbeaten record with a 67th-minute equaliser in the French first division leader's 1-1 draw at Lyon last Wednesday.

PSG, who had fallen behind 10 minutes earlier to a goal from a free-kick by Franck Gava, lead the standings with 22 points, three points ahead of second-placed Bastia who was held 0-0 at home by Nantes.

Former PSG defender Franck Colleter was sent off in a controversial ending to his new club Bordeaux's shock 2-1 defeat at home by lowly Strasbourg, for protesting against a penalty awarded to the visitors five minutes into injury time.

Striker Gerald Baticle scored Strasbourg's winner from the spot after Czech defender Jan Suchoparek had headed an 86th-minute



equaliser.

Previously unbeaten Bordeaux, went in front in the 68th minute through Kaba Diawara.

Late in the game Monaco midfielder Lilian Martin was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Auxerre beat Monaco 2-0 at home with a 47th-minute strike by Bernard Diomede and an own goal by defender Emmanuel Petit 18 minutes later.

PENALTY BRINGS DISPUTE

Zaragoza wants to replay the last 20 minutes of their Spanish first division game with Barcelona which it had been leading 3-2 but ended up losing 5-3 after an assistant referee indicated a hotly disputed penalty.

Television coverage suggests that Rafael Guerrero mistook Zaragoza defender Xavier Aguado for teammate Jesus Solana, and that he may have been wrong to tell referee Enrique Mejuto to award a penalty.

Zaragoza have also sent

football authorities a video of what they believe to be a series of bad refereeing decisions made against them this season.

The incident has become a major talking-point in Spain.

For many people Barcelona's Fernando Couto over reacted by falling to the ground when pushed from behind by Solana, a view apparently reflected even by Barcelona coach Bobby Robson.



Bobby Robson: Believed Couto may have over reacted in penalty area.

BAYERN REVIVE FORTUNES

Bayern Munich rallied from an early 1-0 deficit to defeat Borussia Moenchengladbach 2-1 away and advance to the third round of the German Cup last Wednesday.

Rebounding from a stinging 3-0 defeat by Werder Bremen in a Bundesliga match the previous Saturday and its early exit from the UEFA

Cup, Bayern pulled off a badly needed victory.

"This was a very important win for us," said Bayern coach Giovanni Trapattoni, who has come under pressure after his side's recent lacklustre performances. "Both teams could have won tonight."

Moenchengladbach, who clearly outplayed the visitors in the opening stages, took a

1-0 lead when Joerg Neun blasted a shot past Bayern goalkeeper Oliver Kahn in the ninth minute.

German international Thomas Strunz equalised for Bayern in the 28th minute after his shot was deflected and Alexander Zickler scored the winner five minutes from the end.



Croatian Corner

By John Viskovich

Nenad Bjelica has left relegated Spanish outfit Albacete and gone to greener pastures i.e. the green strip of Real Betis. The 23 year old knocked back Real Madrid as he felt he still had to prove himself in Spanish football so regular football at Betis was better than the experience at Madrid for him. His team mate at the club will be Robert Jarni a Croat who is still in the middle of staying at Betis - or joining Arsenal in England.

Velin Karic has been granted his wish of joining Lugano in Switzerland on loan while his club Torino is in the Serie B Karic, who has been capped

only once by Croatia's U/21 team hasn't been asked to play for Croatia in the France 98 qualifiers against Bosnia.

Josip Weber is very close to regaining full fitness, and taking his place back in Anderlechts attack. The Belgium club clearly missed him last season as it lost the title to Club Brugge due to a lack of goals. Weber has been rated the most prolific striker in Belgium for the past 2 seasons.

Tomislav Erceg who was bought by VFB Stuttgart from Grasshoppers has now been sent to German club Duisburg on loan in order to get him used to the German

style of football. A place in Stuttgart's all star line up wasn't available for Erceg but is for Croatian defender Zvonimir Soldo who is rated very highly in Germany in a winning team who sit on top of the table.

Alen Boksic who won the Champions Cup with Marseille in 1993, the club's first major European trophy, is now helping his new club Juventus in similar fashion. Boksic who hasn't played in the Champions League for over 3 years had a great comeback to the big time scoring against Manchester United in the first game and then in his second against Fenerbahce of Turkey he

grabbed the winner. Both games ended 1:0 to Juventus and the club hopes it can defend its title with an in form Alen Boksic. For Lazio his previous club it looks that the departure of Alen has cost the club dearly as they aren't scoring and Cassiragi and Signori don't get the quality passes Boksic gave them before.

Ivan Cesar Gabrich an Argentinian of Croatian background, has left Argentinian club Newell's Old Boys and is currently signing a contract with Dutch Giants Ajax of Amsterdam.

Igor Stimac, Aljosha Asanovic (Derby County)

and Slaven Bilic (West Ham) have all signed lengthy contracts with their respective clubs. For Slaven Bilic he celebrated by scoring 2 goals in his next two games while Stimac and Asanovic have contributed well in Derby's fight to stay in the Premier League.

For more Croatian Sports News and a good laugh tune into Cro 2000 with legendary announcer Ante Grabovac. The program is broadcast in English 9.45m Wednesdays on Sydney's 98.1FM. Don't miss it.

DID YOU KNOW?



Igor Stimac: Playing for Derby County.

Croatian Striker Bernad Vuras who played for Hajduk and Bologna in the 60s is still the only player to score a hat trick for the World Team. He performed this spectacle against England at Wembley.

WESTFIELDS HEAD FOR EUROPE

By BOB BROOKS

One of the specialist Sports High Schools in NSW, Westfields has a team of fourteen, fifteen and sixteen year old boys soon to tour Europe. They leave Australia's shores on Monday October 15 for 21 days.

The 18 players are accompanied by three adults including Tour Leader and head of Program, Kelly Cross. After Cross had guided the school's team to success in the 1995 Commonwealth Bank Bill turner Cup for Under 15's, the idea of a European tour was generated.

Harry Kewell, a full-time professional with Leeds United in England and Australia's youngest ever full international, graduated from Westfield Sports High School.

The boys open the England part of their tour on the 17th against Crystal Palace then take in an England game at Wembley after a guided tour of this most famous of stadiums.

Games follow with a North Kent selection, Everton and finally in England, the English National Schools Under 15 team at Lilleshall. This facility is outstanding in the world of football.

A short visit to Holland completes this exciting venture. Westfields will challenge a Dutch selection on

their own turf. Visits to top class games in England and Holland are all part of their itinerary.

The touring party is: Liam Daly goalkeeper, Blacktown City; Michael Cavallaro sweeper, Marconi; Shane Cansdell defender, Macarthur Rams; Ian Kebblewhite, Captain defender, Blacktown City; Jarrod Nash defender, Parramatta Eagles; Vlado Kiparizov midfielder, Marconi; Cenk Elgun midfielder, Blacktown City; Eris Dafficey midfielder, Macarthur Rams; Ryan Manente attacking midfielder, Blacktown City; Liam Austin striker, Gladesville Hornsby; Nathaniel George striker, Parramatta Eagles; Luciano Berbis midfielder, Parramatta Eagles; Bradley Groves midfielder, Parramatta Eagles; Christiano Limaright midfielder, Marconi; Fabian Vegas midfielder, Parramatta Eagles; Peter Giurisovich attacking midfielder, UTS Olympic; Mark Lancaster attacker, Bankstown Association; Troy McColl striker, Blacktown City.

Tour Leader & Coach - Kelly Cross; Manager - Allan Booth; Manager and goalkeeping coach - Ron Jackson.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION BEST & FAIREST AWARD WINNERS



DIVISION 1 FIRST GRADE

Jim Melissourgos — Belmore

UNDER 21

Richard Astone — Penrith

UNDER 18

Tim Cahill — Belmore

DIVISION 2 FIRST GRADE

Salvatore Zullo — Concord Juniors

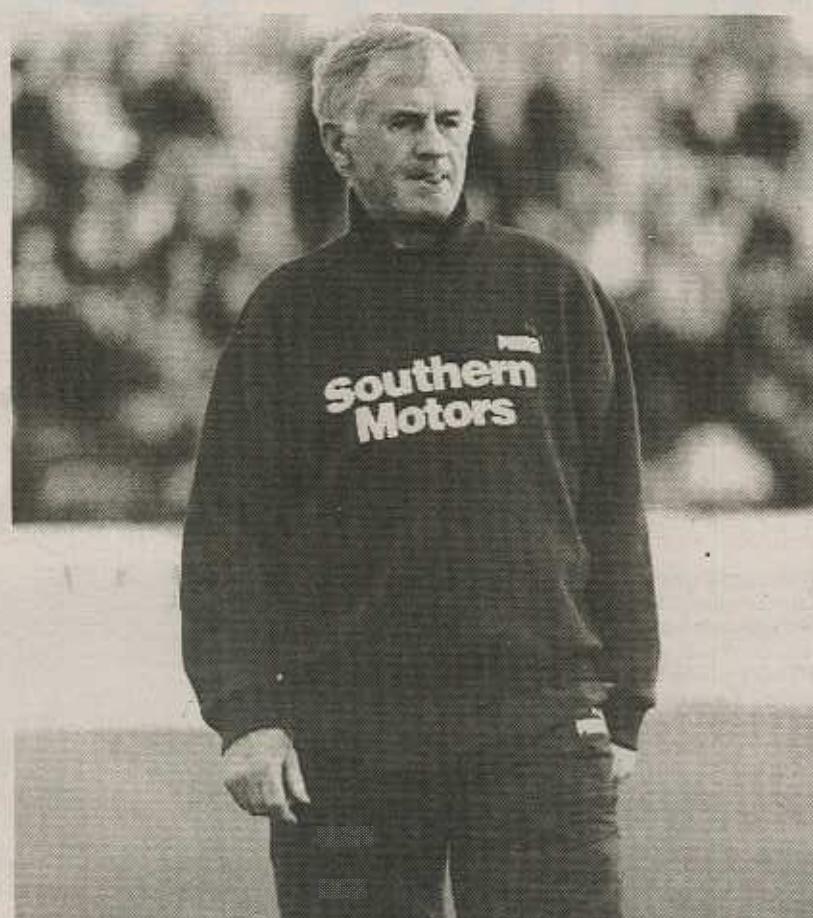
WOMEN DIVISION 2

Jodie Druce — Liverpool Olympic

DIVISION 1 LEADING SCORER

Jim Melissourgos — Belmore

FALCONS WITH WEBBED FEET?



Frank Arok: Has faced challenges in getting his team on the park for training.

at 7.30pm.

The Lakers are the former club of Falcons coach Arok. He always relishes encounters with past clubs.

They stay within Victoria for next week's fixture at Knights Park, Sunshine against Melbourne Knights.

The battle is joined with the

current Ericsson Cup champions on Sunday October 20 at 6.00pm.

Frank Arok has faced many challenges in his illustrious coaching career but just where to find some dry ground for training is his current one.

The Gippsland district of Victoria, about 140 kms east of Melbourne, is a beautiful area with lush native forest growth including some giant eucalypts.

To sustain this size and density of trees requires substantial rainfall and that is exactly what has been happening through winter.

Arok's men have been ploughing through mud and water which is not the best preparation for an Ericsson Cup season.

Falcons Park was more like a duck pond than a sports field. It was discovered a creek that ran behind a covered grandstand had severely silted up over the years. Consequently instead of water draining off the pitch into the creek the opposite was happening!

The local council got to work and dug out the offending creek giving the pitch the chance to start to dry out, providing the rain eases.

At least if the weather is inclement, about 4000 spectators can get under cover, either in the seating or standing areas.

*South Melbourne open the season at Falcons Park, Morwell on Saturday night, with action getting underway

COSMOS CAPITAL CAPERS

By GRAHAM COOKE

Cash strapped Canberra Cosmos is hoping the key to its forthcoming Ericsson Cup campaign lies in talent recruited from the ACT region - it has no money to go elsewhere, coach Mike Lyons says.

"We have managed to retain some of the signings from outside Canberra last year - Paul Wade of course, Paul Dee, Lachlan Armstrong and Norman Kelly - and most of the ACT League players from last year are keen to come back," he said.

"But I'm afraid the money is not around for big name signings."

The Cosmos' future was in doubt for most of the winter when it finished its inaugural national league campaign owing well in excess of \$100,000. Frantic backstage work has resulted in most of that debt being either rescheduled or eliminated, but there is no room for financial adventure in 1996-97.

However, Lyons says having teenage goalkeeper Danny Milosevic and Milosevic's Young Socceroo team-mate, midfielder Michael Garcia, fit again, is almost like two new signings.

"We had to do without them for virtually all of last season because of injury, and I am expecting both of them to play a major role this time."

Lyons also revealed Marko Perinovic has re-signed with the Cosmos after weeks of uncertainty. Only a few days ago the veteran striker, who spans the nine-year gap between Canberra's two spells in the national league, has been pessimistic about his chances of coming to terms this time round.

It is likely he will partner Tony Lemezina up front, although if the Cosmos complete negotiations for players from Canberra Deakin, who remained aloof from the national league set-up last season, there will be stiff competition from Peter Buljan and David Milin.

Lyons is also enthusiastic about midfielder Vincenzo Grella, signed straight out of the Australian Institute of Sport, and full-back Lindsay Wilson, just 17, from Tuggeranong United.

Wilson has been impressive in a series of warm-up games, but the injury bogey struck Cosmos again when he fractured a wrist during training last week. "We're hoping he'll be able to play in a cast, and that it won't be too much of a problem for him," Lyons said. "But it's all down to what the doctors say."

The Canberra coach is virtually hoarse after a week running a Cosmos school holiday clinic for 55 children at Woden Park Oval, but says events like this are crucial for the club.



Mike Lyons: New challenges for the Ericsson Cup season around the corner.

"I'm delighted to say my players have all helped out with the coaching - it gives them contact with the grass roots and helps to raise the profile in the build-up to the season," he said. "But most importantly it gives the youngsters tangible role-models who they will want to see play at Bruce Stadium in the months ahead."



TALENT IDENTIFICATION IN BRISBANE



Lismore Association U/14 & U/15 Players who represented Northern NSW at the National Championships in Rochedale, Brisbane last week. (L-R): Matthew Edmonds (Kyogle), Kyle Jensen (Thistles), Michael Piccoli (Casino), Phil Metcalf (Kyogle), Brendan Hogan (Casino), Todd Gava (Stars), Clint Willoughby (Goonellabah), Adam Hughes (Goonellabah). Absent Joshua Taylor (Brunswick Heads).

Queensland ran out clear winners of the Under 14 ATI championships in Brisbane last week.

After pounding their opposition in Group B scoring 18 goals and conceding just one, they had a narrow 2-1 win over Western Australia in their semi final.

A stunning 3-0 triumph with South Australia the victims rounded off a great week for the boys from the Sunshine State.

The Queensland Under 15s were narrowly beaten by the only goal of the game, going down 0-1 to NSW in extra time.

NSW can count themselves lucky to have taken the Final as they lost a game in the early rounds of Group A to Victoria.

Queensland swept all before them on the way to the Final having put away 15 goals and let in just two.

Note: Photographs will appear in the next edition.



UNDER 14s

Western Australia	3	Northern Territory	1
Country New South Wales	1	New South Wales	3
South Australia	0	Queensland	3
Australian Capital Territory	0	Northern New South Wales	1
Country New South Wales	2	Victoria	1
Australian Capital Territory	2	Tasmania	2
Western Australia	0	New South Wales	4
South Australia	3	Northern New South Wales	2
New South Wales	1	Victoria	2
Northern Territory	2	Country New South Wales	1
Northern New South Wales	1	Tasmania	0
Queensland	5	Australian Capital Territory	0
South Australia	6	Tasmania	0
Queensland	5	Northern New South Wales	0
Western Australia	4	Victoria	1
Northern Territory	0	New South Wales	8
Western Australia	2	Country New South Wales	2
Northern Territory	1	Victoria	3
South Australia	1	Australian Capital Territory	2
Queensland	5	Tasmania	1
Northern Territory	0	Tasmania	4
Country New South Wales	2	Australian Capital Territory	2
Victoria	2	Northern New South Wales	3

SEMI FINALS

NSW	0	South Australia	2
Western Australia	1	Queensland	2
3rd & 4th PLACE			
NSW	4	Western Australia	1
FINAL			
South Australia	0	Queensland	3

UNDER 15s

Western Australia	1	Northern Territory	0
Country New South Wales	0	New South Wales	2
South Australia	0	Queensland	1
Australian Capital Territory	0	Northern New South Wales	5
Country New South Wales	0	Victoria	1
Australian Capital Territory	3	Tasmania	1
Western Australia	0	New South Wales	2
South Australia	3	Northern NSW	1
New South Wales	0	Victoria	1
Northern Territory	0	Country New South Wales	5
Northern New South Wales	1	Tasmania	1
Queensland	3	Australian Capital Territory	0
South Australia	11	Tasmania	1
Queensland	7	Northern New South Wales	1
Western Australia	0	Victoria	1
Northern Territory	0	New South Wales	2
Western Australia	1	Country New South Wales	3
Northern Territory	3	Victoria	2
South Australia	1	Australian Capital Territory	1
Queensland	2	Tasmania	0
Northern Territory	2	Tasmania	0
Western Australia	5	Australian Capital Territory	0
Country New South Wales	1	Northern New South Wales	2

SEMI FINALS

New South Wales	1	South Australia	0
Victoria	1	Queensland	2
3rd and 4th Place			
South Australia	1	Victoria	3
FINAL			
New South Wales	1	Queensland	0 AET

JACKSON OPENS SCOTTISH ACCOUNT

John Collins scored his first international goal for almost 18 months to help Scotland to a 2-0 World Cup victory over Latvia in Riga on Saturday.

The Monaco midfielder gave his side the lead in the 18th minute. Stuart McCall touched a free kick short to Collins and he drove home a left-foot shot from just outside the penalty box.

The goal was Collins' ninth for his country, but his first since he scored against San Marino last year.

Hibernian striker Darren Jackson sealed an important European group four win for the Scots with a second goal in the 77th minute.

He curled a right-foot shot



John Collins: Ended his Scottish goal drought in Riga on the Baltic.

beyond diving Latvian goalkeeper Oleg Karavajev for his first international goal.

Scotland, missing several key players because of injury, were indebted to goalkeeper Andy Goram for several fine saves as they battled to

preserve their slender lead for much of the second half.

Goram was forced into a spectacular save in the 74th minute from a ferocious 30-metre shot by centre-back Mikhail Zemlinski.

ITALY TRIUMPH IN MOLDOVA

Fabrizio Ravanelli scored twice and Pierluigi Casiraghi added another as Italy overcame a case of defensive jitters to defeat Moldova 3-1 in their World Cup European Group Two opener on Saturday in Chisinau, the Moldovan capital.

The win was important for Italy and embattled coach Arrigo Sacchi, made a scapegoat for his team's shock elimination from Euro 96.

But Moldova struck back three minutes later when midfielder Alexandru Curtianu exploited a defensive blunder by Juventus stopper Ciro Ferrara and blasted the ball past a helpless Francesco Toldo.

"They were simply getting to the ball before we were and

when you can't even get to it first, well, what can you do?" Sacchi said.

"I'm pleased we won, but clearly for this team it's still 'work in progress'."

Despite being outnumbered in midfield, Italy went ahead in the eighth minute when Middlesbrough striker Ravanelli curved a free-kick from the edge of the area just over the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Denis Romanenko.

Midfielders to Italy's three, neutralised the Italians who continued to be nervous in defence until Sacchi remedied the problem by inserting midfielder Angelo Di Livio for Chiesa after the interval.

Juventus's Di Livio showed his class in the 68th



Casiraghi: Headed home his 11th goal for the Azzuri against Moldova.

minute, serving up a perfect cross which Lazio's Casiraghi headed in for his 11th international goal.

Ravanelli then provided insurance from the spot three minutes from time after Casiraghi was hauled down in the penalty area.



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



NEW LEAGUE ON THE CARDS

An exciting new concept of national competition has emerged from talks at the Inaugural National Championship Workshop held in Darwin.

The proposal is still being refined but looks like going ahead in mid to late November this year. The summer competition is the first step towards the long-discussed national league.

Following the successful ITC Challenge held early this year, this new competition will take on more of a league format, with the six ITC teams split into two pools. ACT, SA and Victoria will form the southern group, with NSW, Queensland and NNSW grouped together in the north.

The three teams will play each other over the space of a weekend, with each team to host a home round. Both

AWSA and the States will fund the projects.

But should the league go ahead, it will not signal the end of National Championships. Another vital topic of discussion at the Workshop, following signs of dwindling interest from certain quarters, the forum resolved the immediate problems.

"Northern NSW had indicated they would not be sending a team to next year's nationals," reported AWSA Board Member and Workshop coordinator Janette Spencer. "But after these talks, it is now understood what the problem was. NNSW had been putting a lot of money into the Nationals, but will now adopt the user pays system which most of the other States do anyway."

"It's all resolved now, and this will allow them to inject

money into the concept of the national league. But we don't want that to be to the detriment of the national championships."

After the outcomes of this first forum, Spencer plans to expand on the idea for future years, to include special speakers and discuss the broader issues of the Sport. Open to all interested parties as well as State delegates and AWSA officials, Spencer was pleased that a sprinkling of players also participated.

"It was interesting to get the States' perspectives on each age level championship and their commitment to compete," said Spencer.

"With the recent evolution of women's soccer in Australia, the championships may not be the most elite event anymore, but they still form an important part of the identification process. It's

still important players compete at the highest level they can."

A greater involvement with the Schools competition was also discussed, especially in terms of the running of the Youth Championship, and the number of players currently competing in both.

"The workshop is a communication thing," concluded Spencer. "People are more acceptable of others' opinions when the cards are laid on the table."



SERMANNI ON DARWIN

Despite the fact a large

unavailable.

"Potentially you've taken 17 of the better players out of the competition. Plus with the expense of travelling to Darwin, some States had problems getting in some of their more experienced players. Also with the Youth titles in Perth, some had to decide between one or the other."

"Teams coped exceptionally well with the hot conditions. The States put a lot of thought into how to deal with the heat, which shows continued improvement in terms of player preparation."

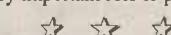
Regarding the competition itself, Sermanni was realistic in his assessment. "The quality was good considering the number of players not there. But it would be remiss of me to say it was the best tournament ever."

Of the OAP members and those that played for Australia this year, six are overseas, four injured, and seven were

won the tournament in the end," said Sermanni. "And South Australia deserve a lot of credit for reaching the final. A fairly young side plus a sprinkling of experienced players, they blended very well together."

"The other encouraging thing for me was the chance to look at other players coming through the system. I was particularly impressed with young Jessica Halfpenny, who was named in the All-Stars. And not just me, - the other coaches voted in the majority for her too. This is the sort of player beginning to show real promise."

Sermanni concluded, "With the international commitments piling up next year, it will be difficult for National Team players to compete at the Championships. But I believe the championships still have a very important role to play."



TRUE STAYERS

Each year at the Australian Senior Championship, AWSA presents Achievement Awards in recognition of sustained performance and State representation. Introduced in its present format in 1990, medallions are awarded according to the number of times a player or Coach has competed at the Championship - bronze for seven, silver for ten, and gold for thirteen.

But one player who played at the titles in Darwin last week has long outgrown the system. Andy Martin, formerly of Victoria and now representing the Northern Territory, has racked up an incredible twenty championships. Now that calls for a 'Double Gold'.

Martin competed in the very first National Championship in 1974, and

Recipients of Achievement Awards

1996 Bronze:

Julie Anderson (SA)
Sam Bamber (NT)
Traci Bartlett (NSW)
Sharon Black (SA)
Debbie Corcoran (ACT)
Lisa Davies (VIC)
Diana Reeves (WA)
Tracey Wheeler (WA)
Tiffany Winn (SA)
Kaye Yardin (NSW)

Silver

Deanna Kilmartin (NT)
Anissa Tann-Darby (NSW)
Penny Tanner (WA)

Gold

Jane Oakley (VIC)
(Oakley's 13 was reached in 1995 but was not awarded then. She is now Coach for Victoria).

was named in the first All-Stars Team the following year. She became renowned

as one of Australia's top defenders and represented her country nine times.

MITCHELL UNI CHAMPS

Charles Sturt University C-Mitchell campus are the new champions after their win at last week's Australian Universities Games.

This year hosted in Canberra from 29 September - 4 October, the Games are Australia's largest annual multi-sport event.

Sixteen teams contested the women's soccer, one of twenty-one sports.

The Friday final held at the Australian Defence Force Academy saw last year's finalists again in battle, with CSU Mitchell keener than ever to avenge the 1995 narrow 1-0 loss to University of New England (UNE).

Neither side could produce a winner after a goal apiece had been scored in the first half, the scoreline remaining

at 1-1 at the final whistle. It came down to all the tension and drama of a penalty shootout to decide the winner.

CSU Mitchell proved the more steadfast from the spot with a tally of 5-3 to claim the gold medal. Mitchell and their band of supporters celebrated in jubilant style, rushing onto the ground as the referee signalled their victory.

CSU's win was double sweet with the realisation they had beaten the historical odds. UNE have the amazing record of fifteen titles from the eighteen championships ever held.

Sydney University captured the bronze with a comprehensive 2-0 win over University of Queensland.



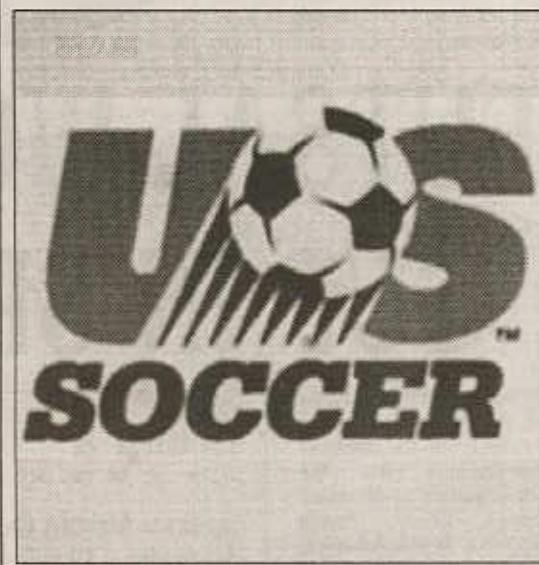
USA TO TOUR?

Olympic gold medallists USA have indicated on interest in visiting Australia in January/February next year.

AWSA are currently

negotiating with the US Federation for what would be a historic event.

At this stage, Canberra looks to be the most likely venue.



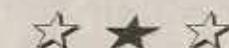
TURNER RETURNS

Former AWSA Executive Director Paul Turner has returned to the national scene after being elected unopposed to the AWSA Board at the Annual General Meeting on 21 September in Darwin.

Turner takes on the portfolio of Director of Marketing. Former Director Vicki Juric did not stand for the position due to heavy

work commitments.

In the only other position due for relection, Maria Berry was relected unopposed as Vice President/Director of Administration.



KIWIS IN SYDNEY

Petone Women's Soccer from Wellington, New Zealand will be in Sydney this week.

Included in their program are two matches at Parklea. On Tuesday (today) they will take on the NSW ITC, and Thursday they will clash with the NSW State Team. Both are scheduled for a 7.00pm kickoff.

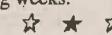
SBS-TV will also be present to record some footage and conduct

interviews with Australian players Joanne Peters, Kelly Golebiowski, and Louise McMurtrie who has moved down to Sydney from Brisbane.



CAMP NEXT MONTH

National Squad preparations recommence next month with a training camp scheduled for 7-12 November at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. Participating players will be named in the coming weeks.





SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHEART —



ORURO ROYAL CELEBRATES ITS 100TH

Oruro Royal, Bolivia's oldest club and one of the most prestigious in the country, has celebrated its 100th birthday.

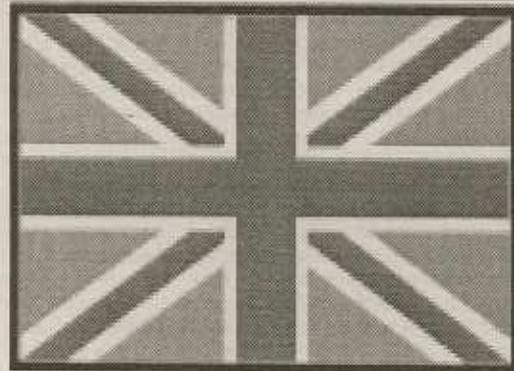
Founded by a group of English employers of the Bolivian railways, it is still proudly active and ready to fight for promotion to the first division.

The "Royal" comes from the mining city of Oruro, located 4,300 metres above sea level, and its black and white colours were taken as the legend goes, from English club Tottenham Hotspur.

Meanwhile, Blooming, one of Bolivians most traditional clubs, based in Santa Cruz, celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Frequent participant in the South American Libertadores Cup, Blooming reached its pinnacle of glory in 1984, when the club won the Bolivian national championship for the first time.

Together, with its archrival Oriente Petrolero, they have offered adamant resistance to the powerful clubs of La Paz, Bolivar and The Strongest, and Cochabamba's Jorge Wilsterman.



FUTSAL WORLD CUP IN SPAIN

The 1996 Futsal World Cup will be held in Spain from the 24th of November with the participation of 16 teams from Europe, South America, North America, Africa, Asia, Oceania and Arabia.

In Group A, based in Murcia are: Spain, South Africa, Australia and Ukraine.

In Group B, also based in Murcia, are: Russia, Holland, Argentina and China.

In Group C, based in Segovia, are: United States, Uruguay, Malaysia and Italy.

In Group D, also based in Segovia are: World champions Brazil, Iran, Cuba and Belgium.

The opening matches will be as follows:

Group A

Spain v African Qualifiers

Australia v Ukraine

Group B

China v Argentina

Russia v Holland

Group C

United States v Uruguay

Malaysia v Italy

Group D

Iran v Cuba

Brazil v Belgica

URUGUAY WITH ITS BEST TEAM

Uruguay will go full steam against Bolivia, with national coach, Hector Nunez putting his best possible squad on the park.

The match, to be played at Montevideo's historic Centenario Stadium, will be crucial for the Uruguayans in their aim to qualify for the 1998 World Cup in France.

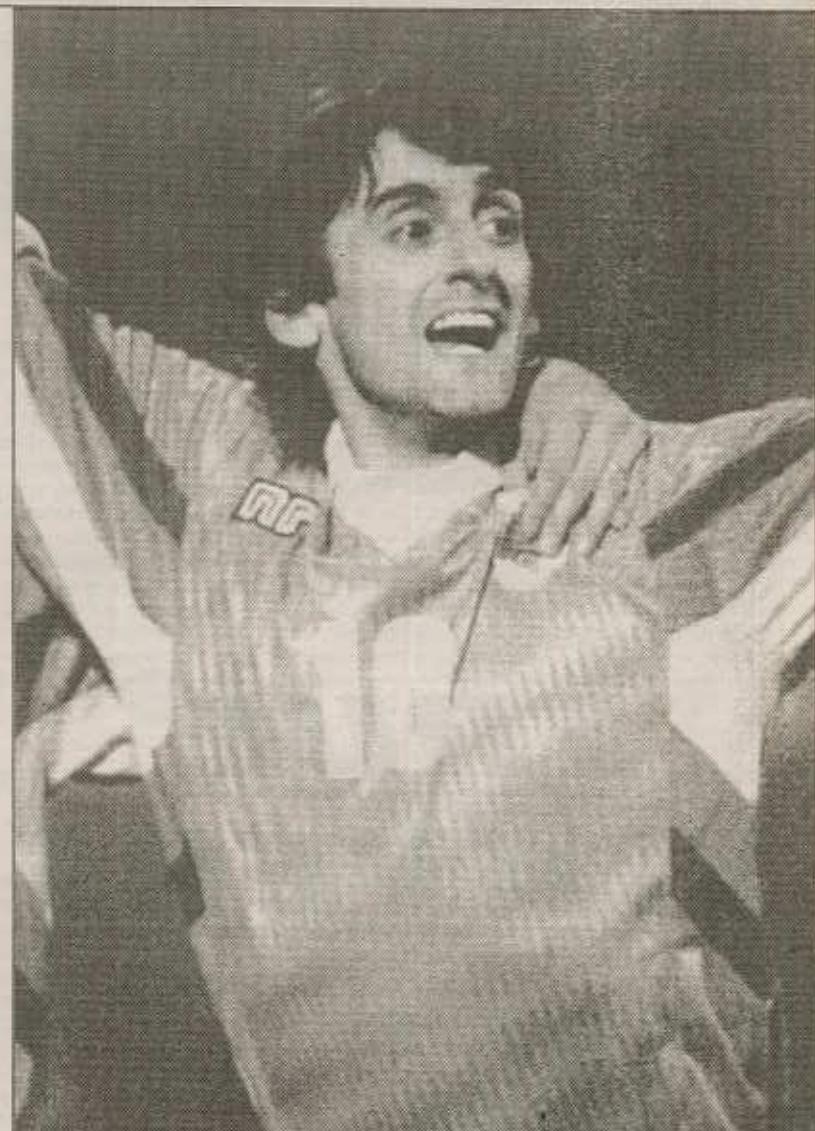
It is also crucial for the Bolivians who will go to the match without their two stars, Marco Etcheverry and Edwin "Platini" Sanchez. They will be under the guidance of their new Spanish coach, Antonio Lopez.

Uruguay will start the game with two new faces in its squad, goalkeeper Robert Siboldi and defender Jose Sanguinetti.

Siboldi will be the third goalkeeper to play for Uruguay, in the current South American World Cup qualifying rounds, after the failure of Claudio Arbizu and Claudio Flores in the previous three games.

Meanwhile, the "blue sky" defence will be strengthened by the inclusion of Jose Sanguinetti, who plays for Gimnasia y Esgrima of Argentina as right back with Cagliari's Gustavo Mendez moving to the right flank. The two central defenders will be Jose Herrera and Paolo Montero, both playing in the Italian Serie A with Atalanta and Juventus respectively.

In midfield will be Marcelo Saralegui (Colon Santa Fe, Argentina), Gustavo Poyet (Zaragoza, Spain), Alvaro Gutierrez (Valladolid, Spain) or Gabriel Cedres (Boca Juniors, Argentina), and the captain and South American "Player of the Year" Enzo Francescoli (River Plate, Argentina), while Daniel Fonseca (AC Roma, Italy) and Marcelo Otero (Vincenza, Italy) will be the strikers.



Enzo Francescoli: Midfielder and captain of the Uruguay team against Bolivia.

Juniors, Argentina), and the captain and South American "Player of the Year" Enzo Francescoli (River Plate, Argentina), while Daniel Fonseca (AC Roma, Italy) and Marcelo Otero (Vincenza, Italy) will be the strikers.

The Bolivian coach will announce his team one hour before the game tomorrow.

LIBERTADORES CUP

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Since 1960, seven Argentine clubs, five Brazilian, two Uruguayan, one Paraguayan, one Colombia and one Chilean have won the major Competition at club level in South America.

The first one was Penarol of Uruguay in 1960, and the last one River Plate of Argentina in 1996.

Independiente of Argentina has won the tournament seven times while Penarol of Uruguay have been victorious on five occasions, and Estudiantes of la Plata from Argentina and Nacional or Uruguay three times each.

YR. CHAMPION RUNNER UP

1960	Penarol (Uruguay)	Olimpia (Paraguay)
1961	Penarol (Uruguay)	Palmeiras (Brazil)
1962	Santos (Brazil)	Penarol (Uruguay)
1963	Santos (Brazil)	Boca Jrs (Argentina)
1964	Independiente (Argentina)	Nacional (Uruguay)
1965	Independiente (Argentina)	Penarol (Uruguay)
1966	Penarol (Uruguay)	River Plate (Argentina)
1967	Racing (Argentina)	Nacional (Uruguay)
1968	Estudiantes (Argentina)	Palmeiras (Brazil)
1969	Estudiantes (Argentina)	Nacional (Uruguay)
1970	Estudiantes (Argentina)	Penarol (Uruguay)
1971	Nacional (Uruguay)	Estudiantes (Argentina)
1972	Independiente (Argentina)	Universitario (Argentina)
1973	Independiente (Argentina)	Colo Colo (Chile)
1974	Independiente (Argentina)	Sao Paulo (Brazil)
1975	Independiente (Argentina)	Union Espanola (Chile)
1976	Cruzeiro (Brazil)	River Plate (Argentina)
1977	Boca Juniors (Argentina)	Cruzeiro (Brazil)

1978	Boca Juniors (Argentina)	Dep. Cali (Colombia)
1979	Olimpia (Paraguay)	Boca Jrs (Argentina)
1980	Nacional (Uruguay)	Internacional (Brazil)
1981	Flamengo (Brazil)	Cobreloa (Chile)
1982	Penarol (Uruguay)	Cobreloa (Chile)
1983	Independiente (Argentina)	Penarol (Uruguay)
1984	Independiente (Argentina)	Gremio (Brazil)
1985	Argentinos Jrs (Argentina)	America (Colombia)
1986	River Plate (Argentina)	America (Colombia)
1987	Penarol (Uruguay)	America (Colombia)
1988	Nacional (Uruguay)	Newell's (Argentina)
1989	At. Nacional (Colombia)	Olimpia (Paraguay)
1990	Olimpia (Paraguay)	Barcelona (Ecuador)
1991	Colo Colo (Chile)	Olimpia (Paraguay)
1992	Sao Paulo (Brazil)	Newell's (Argentina)
1993	Sao Paulo (Brazil)	U. Catolica (Chile)
1994	Velez Sarsfield (Argentina)	Sao Paulo (Brazil)
1995	Gremio (Brazil)	At. Nacional (Colombia)
1996	River Plate (Argentina)	America (Colombia)



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Stanley Matthews

A VIDEO REVIEW



Stanley Matthews: Playing for Stoke City against Chelsea on May 11, 1963 leaving Eddie McCreadie sitting at his feet.

In an age of multi-million pound transfer fees, most estimates of footballing talent are meaningless. But even now there are precious few players whose mere presence on the pitch quadruples gates, who once seen are literally not forgotten. George Best was one such player but before him came Stanley Matthews.

Unlike today's idols, he never attracted unsavoury headlines, letting his feet do the talking and in 1963 he wrote the biggest headlines of his long and illustrious career when he took his hometown club Stoke City back to the first Division at the age of 48.

This video/documentary investigates the man behind the Matthews magic - unquestionably the greatest English footballer of all time.

Made in 1963, this "doco" follows Sir Stanley during that heady year. Some great footage and well worth adding to your collection.

Star rating: ***** and priced at \$4.99 stg (p+p inc). Fill out the coupon below when ordering and receive a full list of videos and news of the "Buy four, get one free" offer only to readers of ABSW but you must use the official coupon provided.

WHERE AND WHEN TO GO?

The obvious place to be in England is Old Trafford where, with the new ground improvements in operation, an average of 54,762 people attend each match, far and away the best in the UK. Liverpool take second spot with 39,633, a very long way behind. But when is the best time to take your seat for the action?

Before the first whistle would be the norm of course but would you miss much if you were held up in traffic? At a Manchester United game, not really. They have a tendency to start slowly having only netted three times in the first half of the game. It's not until the last third of the first half and the first and last third's of the second, that they really do their damage - taking into account ALL league goals scored by them this term.

Liverpool on the other hand, start the game quite briskly in the opening 15 minutes but true to historical form, the second half belongs to them, scoring some 12 goals during this period, twice as many as in the opening 45. Neighbours Everton are all action in the first half, but they haven't found the back of the net in the last 30 minutes. Suffice to say, if you left any match early involving the Toffees, you wouldn't miss them scoring on present form this year, unlike Arsenal who start quite well but have ground the opposition down, a la Liverpool, towards the end of the game.

At the other end of the scale you would expect to find Wimbledon as having the lowest home support of any English Premier League side but you would be wrong!

Though helped by a 25,000 plus crowd on the opening day when Man United visited "the smoke", they find themselves one place above bottom of the attendance table - Southampton who have only managed a meagre 15,029 per game at home in 1996/97. No doubt that will increase if they start stringing a few good performances together soon. The Saints are also a side that find it hard to break down defences early on, indeed only netting on three occasions in the opening stanza but the second half has proved slightly more fruitful. The same can be said for the Sky Blues of Highfield Road who have netted once in the opening 45 minutes and a massive twice after the break. Looks like another long season ahead for Coventry.

Supporters of both Coventry and Sheffield Wednesday can nip off after the half-hour mark for a cup of Bovril and a meat pie as the



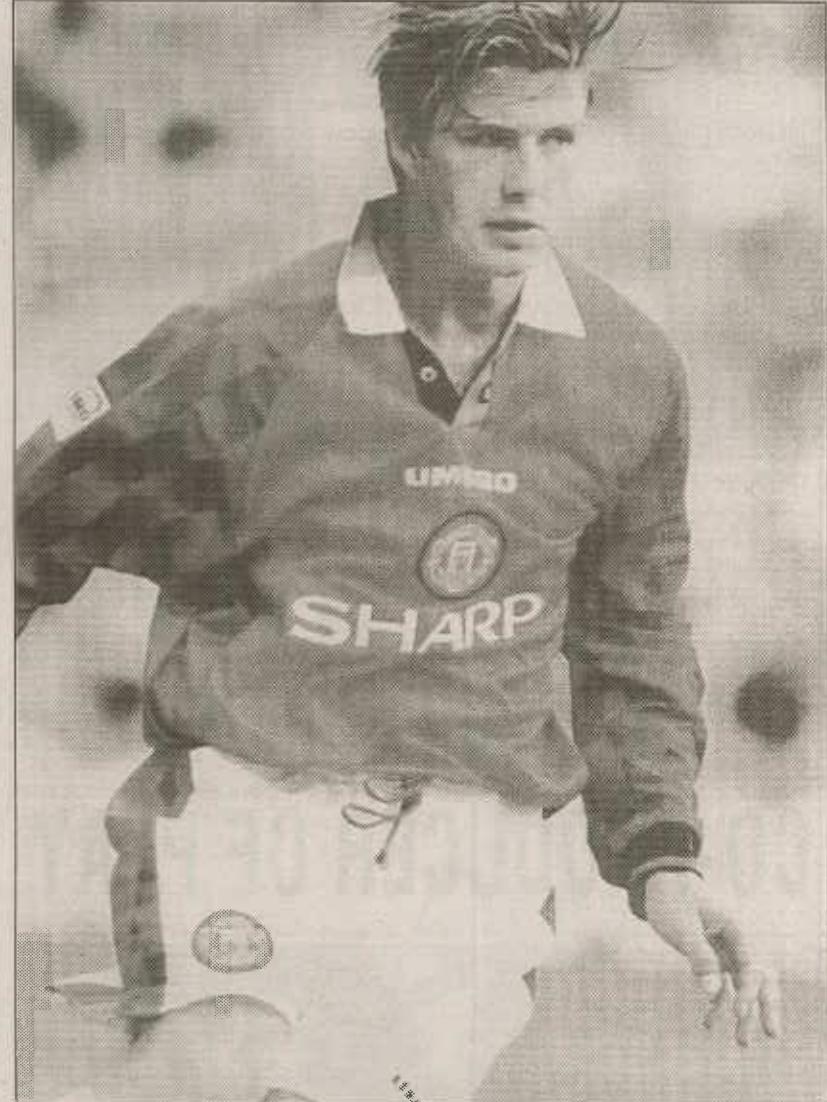
chance of any action occurring in the last 15 minutes of the half is remote. Sunderland supporters can go home after the first 60 minutes because the only team likely to score after that is the opposition!

In Scotland, surprisingly enough, it's Celtic who head the attendances, albeit by a couple of hundred souls, from Rangers but they have played one less home match than their great rivals. They appear to start games quite brightly and improve as the match wears on, but which teams don't in all honesty? Rangers are very similar with both sides seeming to score goals at will but the blue side of Glasgow really hit top form between the 46 and 75 minute mark having found the target some ten times in this period.

For Kilmarnock, Hearts and Hibernian fans, on current form, you can all go home after an hour and a quarter as none of these sides has managed to score after the first 75 minutes of play. In other words, whenever these sides meet this term, you can be safe in the knowledge that it's all over by then so you might as well nip home early for a cuppa, especially when winter hits the hardest.

With some 80 games having been played in the English Premiership to date during this 1996/97 season, the goal ratio is running at 2.45 per game, 196 goals having been scored. Not bad but the Scottish Premiership beats this as in their 35 games to date, the 'keeper has lifted the ball from the net on 106 occasions for an aggregate of 3.02 goals per game. When considering that Celtic, Rangers and Aberdeen have scored 63 between them, it does not leave a lot to be shared around the other seven sides in the division although Dunfermline are the only other club in double figures with 11.

A total of 2,262,639 have watched games in England's top division for an aggregate of 28,282 per game whilst in Scotland the figure is 623,647 or 17,818 per game. With the size of the populations considered, you decide for yourselves - Where and When to go!



David Beckham: His goals contribution is a great asset at Old Trafford.

These tables show the English and Scottish attendances for the current season after the games on September 28, 29 and 30. Goals scored are shown in 15 minute intervals.

Team	Home Att	Agg	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	75-90	Total
Man Utd	219,048	54,762	1	2	4	3	2	6	18
Liverpool	158,534	39,633	3	1	2	5	5	2	18
Everton	152,642	38,160	1	2	4	1	0	0	8
Arsenal	147,665	36,916	1	3	2	1	4	6	17
Newcastle Utd	145,661	36,415	3	1	2	3	2	1	12
A Villa	144,386	36,096	1	2	1	3	4	0	11
Leeds United	132,635	33,158	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Middlesbrough	128,729	32,182	2	3	1	2	2	4	14
Tottenham H	114,609	28,652	0	1	2	0	3	0	6
Chelsea	108,698	27,174	1	3	1	1	1	4	11
Sheff Wed	99,435	24,858	2	3	0	1	0	3	9
Blackburn	96,491	24,122	1	0	2	1	0	1	5
N Forest	95,036	23,759	3	2	1	1	1	1	9
West Ham Utd	89,165	22,291	1	0	1	2	2	1	7
Sunderland	79,400	19,850	1	2	1	2	0	0	6
Leicester City	79,337	19,834	1	2	1	1	0	1	6
Coventry	76,818	19,204	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Derby County	70,667	17,666	1	1	0	0	1	5	8
Wimbledon	65,548	16,387	2	0	2	4	3	1	12
Southampton	60,117	15,029	1	2	0	3	1	3	10
TOTAL									196
Celtic*	144,274	48,091	2	3	4	3	4	5	21
Rangers	191,956	47,989	0	1	2	3	2	9	17
Aberdeen	56,600	14,150	2	2	1	2	4	4	15
Kilmarnock*	37,335	12,445	1	3	2	1	1	0	8
Hearts*	33,634	11,211	2	3	1	1	2	0	9
Hibernian	42,826	10,706	0	2	1	2	1	0	6
Dundee Utd	39,257	9,814	2	0	1	0	1	1	5
Dunfermline	38,603	9,650	1	0	2	2	2	4	11
Motherwell*	24,194	8,064	0	2	2	3	0	1	8
Raith*	14,968	4,989	2	0	0	2	1	1	6
TOTAL									106

* 3 Home Games Only

Cowdenbeath FC

BY STUART JONES

Ground: Boghead Park.
Address: Miller Street, Dumbarton G82 2JA.
Railway Station: Dumbarton (East) — 10 minute walk.
Founded: 1872.
Admitted to League: 1890 (Founder Member).
Ground Capacity: 10,700.
Seats: 303.
Pitch Size: 110yd * 68 yd.
Largest Gate: 18,000 v Raith Scottish Cup 2 March 1957.
Biggest Win: 13-1 v Kirkintilloch C1, 1st rd Scot Cup 1 Sept 1888.

Heaviest Defeat: 1-11 v Albion Rovers Div 2 30 Jan 1926.
Nickname: Sons.
Colours: Gold/Black trim.

Honours: Div 1 — 1890-91 (shared with Rangers). 1891-92.
 Div 2 — 1910-11, 1971-72.
 Second Division — 1991-92.
 Scottish Cup Winners — 1883.

History: The club began at Broadmeadow before moving in 1873 to a field near Boghead. In 1879 they finally settled at Boghead. Between 1881 and 1897 the club won the League twice and the Cup once. The main stand at the ground was only 25 feet long and it was dubbed the hen house or Postage Box. Greyhound racing had been introduced to the ground to aid the club. A small fire destroyed another small stand at the ground in the 1930s. A brick based stand took its place and no further improvements were made until floodlights were switched on for a friendly against Celtic on 23rd January 1957. To cover one end, the supporters re-erected a disused railway platform roof from Turnberry Station in Ayrshire. In May 1979 the Postage Box was demolished and a new 300 seater took its place. In 1984 Dumbarton reached the heights of the Premier League. In the last ten years things have gone less well and they have drifted in the mid leagues and last season suffered relegation to the second division. Currently they are trying to avoid a second successive drop. The 90s are not a repeat of the halcyon days of the 1890s for the Sons.

CANTONA CO-PRODUCER OF PLAY

Eric Cantona said last week he would end his playing career in England and might go into coaching if he felt he could offer something new.

"I won't play again in France," Manchester United's French soccer ace said. "I will finish playing in England and probably stay there."

"But I am still available to play for the French national team. My critics would like me to say I'm not available, but I am," Cantona said on French television.

"If it meant being creative I would like to stay in football as a trainer," he added.

Cantona, who has 45 French caps, said he was worried for the future of football in his country, which will host the World Cup finals in 1998.

"It could become like Denmark or Norway when the 20 best players are abroad. People go to football to watch one or two players. Those responsible are at the top (of the game)." Half of France's national team squad play in Italy or Spain.

Cantona, who rarely gives interviews, was a guest on a television chat show where he also talked about his co-producing of a French version of the play "Who's afraid of Virginia Wolf" in a Paris theatre.

"I might take a course in acting," said Cantona, who has a small part in a film currently on general release in France.



Eric Cantona: Concerned that French football may go the way of Denmark and Norway.

Weird and Wonderful

By STUART JONES

Already this season we have seen some outstanding young talent in the Premier League. That includes Sheffield Wednesday's Richie Humphries.

However, there are others who have stood out recently.

Firstly, there is the keeper who replaced Mark Bosnich in the Aston Villa goal when the Aussie became injured. Michael Oaks was recently named the keeper of Sky TV's 'Dream Team'.

Emile Heskey has lived up to all the pre-season hype at Leicester being much more successful than their last teenage star, Julian Joachim.

Then there is the 18 year old striker at Spurs who was still an apprentice at the end of last season, Rory Allen has certainly made his mark as Armstrong and Sheringham are troubled by injury.

Michael Branch has done a fantastic job as striker at Goodison Park. He is only 17 but was a great influence up front in the game against Wednesday recently.

Lee Jones is doing well at Liverpool and has been used as a substitute. The question is how many of these names will remain in our minds at the end of the season? Hopefully, many!

It certainly shows that the influx of foreign players has not slowed the development of English talent as the doomsayers had predicted.

News of transfers this week: Mark Kinsella who is a goal-scoring hero at Colchester has finally moved up in the world, to the Valley. Charlton Athletic started badly but have recently been on a good run, however they will need his goals.

Alan Reeves has moved to Preston North End from Wimbledon for 350,000 pounds, a certain step down. He was being chased by Carlisle who have his twin brother David as striker.

Southampton have signed striker Egil Ostenstadt for 900,000 pounds from Norway.

Meanwhile, Leicester striker Mark Robins and Aston Villa's defender Paul McGrath have reportedly slapped in transfer requests.

Everton's number two Willie Donachie has become the latest to knock back the vacant managerial post at Manchester City. Mr. Lee may have to think about employing himself as manager.

Alan Smith, the former Crystal Palace manager and NOT the former Arsenal striker or the former England physio, has left Wycombe.

Congratulations to Dominic Matteo on his inclusion in the England squad for their game against Poland this week.

Also, a huge welcome back to Paul Merson who has certainly turned his life around since his well-publicised problems forced him away from football. He came back better than ever at the end of last season and has done really well this term. What many people do not realise is that he nearly gave the game away in the off-season and had seriously considered life without football. Fortunately for Arsenal and England he decided to continue to play.

Also, well done to Wimbledon defender Brian McAllister for being named in the Scottish squad.

Congratulations to Kevin Muscat who has scored three goals in three games for Crystal Palace recently. Carl Veart scored two in the same games while Palace netted 16 times in all. No wonder Dave Bassett wanted to stay at Selhurst Park.

This week's book is again my favourite 'The Supporting Life' by Kevin Baldwin published by Headline and available in Australia. (Including through the UKSSD merchandise list). Here is an extract of what managers really mean when they say things to the media.

About players.

"Good in the air" = Rubbish on the ground.

"He's served the club well for years" = No one else wanted him.

"Committed" = Should be committed - permanently!

"Does not know the meaning of defeat" = He's as thick as a brick.

"Has a strong relationship with the fans" = He's been making those gestures again!

On injuries.

"Shoulder injury" = From lifting too many beers.

"Picked up a knock in training" = The centre forward knocked him out!

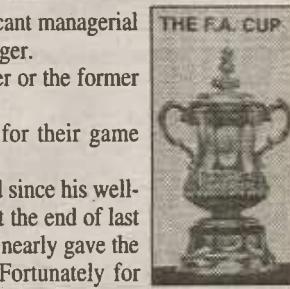
"Achilles strain" = Actually a twisted ankle, but it doesn't sound so wimpy.

"Suspected leg fracture" = We think he broke out of the team hotel and legged it down to a nightclub.

There are heaps of others that show what those interviews are really all about.

Can you blame Eddie Thomson for being tempted by offers from Japan? He copes criticism all the time in Australia and would get paid much better in Japan. The 'J' League is very big with great sponsorship and some of the world's leading players. Also, the opportunities for prime coaching positions in Europe and America are there. He has been very committed to Australia - but how committed are we back to him? Many are openly critical and some feel it's time for a change. Is there anyone better though?

Best of luck to all the British home nations in their World Cup Qualifiers this week.



Kevin Muscat: Appears to have settled in well at Palace with three goals in as many games.

WALES CAPITULATE IN CARDIFF

Substitute Pierre Van Hooijdonk struck twice in three minutes to lead the Netherlands to a 3-1 victory over Wales in their World Cup opener in Cardiff on the weekend.

The Celtic striker fired a 72nd minute equaliser with his first touch then swept home a second on the break to turn the European Group Seven qualifier on its head.

Ronald De Boer added a third goal with 11 minutes remaining with a diving header from Philip Cocu's cross.

Wales had high hopes of maintaining their 100 percent record when Dean Saunders put them ahead after 17 minutes.

But the Dutch hit back strongly and although goalkeeper Neville Southall kept Wales ahead with a string of brilliant saves, the overwhelming pressure told in the end.

Wales, with two big wins against San Marino behind them, had hoped that the Dutch would be vulnerable after a traumatic Euro 96 and a rash of injuries that forced them to field a weakened side.

Southall made a vital save 15 minutes into the game when Jordi Cruyff was sent clear, blocking the Manchester United forward's shot with his legs.

But Wales were ahead within

two minutes with skipper Barry Horne the provider.

He burst into the Dutch penalty area and, although his initial shot was blocked, he collected the rebound, drew Edwin Van Der Sar and squared for Saunders to walk the ball into an empty net.

The Dutch piled on the pressure after the break and at the height of their siege, Southall made three stunning saves in as many minutes to deny substitute Roy Makaay, Ronald De Boer and Clarence Seedorf.

But an equaliser seemed inevitable and once Van Hooijdonk supplied it the Dutch cut loose.



Pierre Van Hooijdonk: Came on as sub and put away a pair for Holland.

UK STORIES

BOSNICH HAS TASK AHEAD

Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich is poised to finally start on the comeback trail and the Socceroo goalkeeper could be back in contention for the English Premier division clash at Tottenham on October 12.

Bosnich has been out of action since the start of the season with damaged knee ligaments but trained last week with the club's goalkeeping coach Paul Barron.

Bosnich has been lined up to play in the reserve fixture with Coventry on October 9 and, if he comes through that with no ill effects, he will be in the frame to face Gerry Francis' side three days later.

Villa manager Brian Little said: "He has had to take things slowly and not rush back. One of his targets is the Spurs game, but he is hoping to play in the reserves before them."

Bosnich's replacement Michael Oakes, has impressed Little, and the England Under-21 player is determined to try and hold on to his place in the side.

Oakes, the son of Manchester City's record appearance holder Alan Oakes, said: "I think I've come into the first team and done the job that has been expected of me."



Mark Bosnich: Will present Brian Little with a selection dilemma when he's fit to resume.

"Hopefully I can build on that and make it difficult for the manager to leave me out when Mark is fit."

"Playing in the Premiership is really the only place to be. Now I'm in the side there's no way I want to come out of it and I will do everything I can to stay in it."

Oakes pulled off a series of stunning saves despite Villa losing 4-3 in last week's game with Newcastle at St James' Park.

☆ ☆ ☆

UEFA OPPOSE WIMBLEDON'S SHENANIGANS

UEFA said last week that it was totally opposed to English premier league Wimbledon relocating to Dublin and would not sanction the move.

UEFA spokesman Salvatore Cuccu stressed that the position of European soccer's governing body in the long-running saga had not changed, even if the London club was about to be taken over by a consortium of Irish businessmen including Paul McGuinness, the manager of rock group U2.

"UEFA are specific about this," he said. "Wimbledon are an English club with a home in England and UEFA is not in favour of them moving to a foreign country."

"It is okay to be innovative and look for new opportunities but this move would cause a great many problems. It is regrettable that a club from the home of football should be involved in a venture of this sort."

"It goes against the spirit of football, of crossing national boundaries and we are not in favour of it."

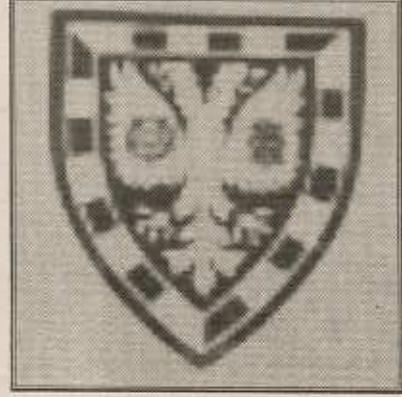
The move is also opposed in principle by the Football Association of Ireland. The English F.A. says it has no policy on the move as it has not yet been formally proposed to them.

Wimbledon is a poorly-supported team with

crowds as small as 9,000 for premier league matches.

It has shared Selhurst Park with Crystal Palace for the past five years but has always been eager to move back to its home neighbourhood.

The Irish consortium, led by McGuinness and property developer Owen O'Callaghan, has reportedly agreed to a deal which would enable it to purchase a 74 per cent shareholding in Wimbledon at a cost of around \$A40 million.



HODDLE TIGHTENS UP ON DISCIPLINE

England coach Glenn Hoddle has cancelled weekend leave for his squad as he sets his sights on his first home World Cup match against Poland tomorrow.

The international players, who returned to their base for the first home game since Euro 96, have been told of quite a few changes from the Terry Venables' regime.

The easy-going Venables allowed his players time off from Saturday lunchtime to Sunday evening in the middle of his long build-ups.

But Hoddle has taken a different approach, saying: "There will be training periods and there will be rest periods. But they won't be going off."

"They'll be eating here and staying every night. Once here, they're on international duty for the seven days we've got to prepare. That's what international football is all about."

Hoddle denied that bad behaviour by some of the England squad on the flight home from Hong Kong in the Spring, and Paul Gascoigne's

pulling down Paul Ince's tracksuit bottoms in Moldova were the reasons for his decision.

But Hoddle, a disciple of new Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger's strict approach to players off the field behaviour, clearly wants a more thoughtful approach to the business than Venables' light-hearted way.

He plans regular daily double training sessions, is looking at the players' diet at their hotel and has introduced a masseur, Steve Slattery, a former Swindon acquaintance

who accompanied the squad to Kishinev for the opening 3-0 win.

Hoddle has also risked media ire by changing a long-held system, intending that no players will be available for interview the day before big games, and giving them four 'clear' days out of seven free from the intrusion of the press, television and radio army.

He will also follow the lead set by Venables this summer in not naming his side until just before kick-off.



Glenn Hoddle: Already imposing his style on England team.

FIFTH MANAGER CHARGED WITH DISREPUTE

Sunderland manager Peter Reid was charged with misconduct by the Football Association last week after his touchline bust-up with referee Paul Danson at Highbury.

He is the fifth Premiership manager charged this season.

Coventry's Ron Atkinson (twice), Southampton's Graeme Souness, Middlesbrough's Bryan Robson and Everton's Joe

Royle have all been in the dock at Lancaster Gate.

Reid, the former Manchester City boss, was banished to the stands from where he watched a second player, Paul Stewart, receive his marching orders to reduce his side to nine men.

Reid has 14 days in which to decide whether he wants a personal hearing to defend the disrepute charge.

Meanwhile, the League Managers' Association is set to confront the referees at a seminar in the English Midlands to thrash out their differences and seek some common ground to prevent more clashes.

LMA chief executive John Barnwell explained: "We as a managers' association are seriously concerned that we have five managers who have

to go in front of the disciplinary committee on disrepute charges."

"They (the managers) are getting more confused, more bewildered by the inconsistencies and trivial decisions by referees which often lead to unnecessary sendings-off and to playing with nine men."

GROBBELAAR WITNESS JAILED

The chief prosecution witness in the match-rigging trial of Bruce Grobbelaar and two other soccer stars was ordered to be held in jail for seven days on Friday charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Chris Vincent, a former business partner of Grobbelaar, was arrested on Tuesday.

The charge sheet read out

at a court in Aldershot, southern England, said the Zimbabwean businessman allegedly contacted one of the defendants and offered to fail to turn up at the trial, due to start in January, in exchange for money.

Vincent spoke only to confirm his name and the charge during the 50-minute hearing. He will return to court in a week's time.

Grobbelaar, a Zimbabwean

international who played for Southampton and Liverpool in the English league and is now with Plymouth, retired Aston Villa striker John Fashanu and Dutch-born Wimbledon

goalkeeper Hans Segers are accused of giving and taking bribes to fix the result of matches.

They were charged after a police investigation prompted by media claims about the activities of an Asian

gambling syndicate in England's premier league.

Among the charges, Grobbelaar, now the Zimbabwean national coach, is accused of accepting \$A4,000 from Vincent, in November 1994 for throwing an unspecified match.

All of them deny the charges.

☆ ☆ ☆



ERICSSON CUP MATCHES

THIS WEEK

ROUND 1

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

TOPPER BREAKERS
v
WEST ADELAIDE

BREAKERS STADIUM - 7.30PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

CANBERRA COSMOS
v
MARCONI FAIRFIELD

BRUCE STADIUM - 7.00PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

GIPPSLAND FALCONS
v
SOUTH MELBOURNE

FALCONS PARK - 7.30PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

PERTH GLORY
v
UTS OLYMPIC

PERTH OVAL - 4.00PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

ADELAIDE CITY
v
BRISBANE STRIKERS

HINDMARSH STADIUM - 7.30PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS
v
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

VICTORIA PARK - 4.30PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

SYDNEY UNITED
v
WOLLONGONG CITY

SYDNEY UNITED SPORTS CENTRE - 6.30PM